

2025 IRC CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

LIBERATING

LITERACY

Embrace Love, Joy, & Empowerment

March 13 - 14, 2025
Springfield, Illinois



IRC believes...

- ★ literacy is a fundamental human right.
- ★ literacy is a powerful tool for justice and equity and must be protected as a right for all students.
- ★ in diversity, equity, and inclusion because representation matters.
- ★ in protecting reader's rights, which include access to learning in a variety of methods, access to books, and access to choice.
- ★ in the importance of libraries and librarians.
- ★ in promoting the joy of reading, writing, and the power of story for lifelong learning.
- ★ educators need to be equipped with peer-reviewed, sustainable, research-based practices.
- ★ equitable assessment is a blend of informal and formal measures that informs instruction.
- ★ learners have different strengths and needs, and therefore should have access to peer-reviewed, research-based strategies, methods, and practices within differentiated multi-tiered systems of support.
- ★ educators need access to high quality resources and professional development that prepares them to be flexible and adaptable to best serve their students.
- ★ families are an integral part of children's literacy lives.
- ★ in celebrating creators of children's literature and young adult literature.
- ★ that education is a valued profession, and therefore educators must be trusted and empowered as decision-makers.
- ★ in community, collaborative conversations, and collegiality.



Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse Anderson will be the first to tell you that her writing is not about “problems” but “resilience.” She writes stories with strong characters who overcome injustice and challenges. She provides a voice to the voiceless with award-winning books, such as *Chains*, *Wintergirls*, *Independent Dames*, *Catalyst*, *The Impossible Knife of Memory*. Her 1999 novel *Speak* was a National Book Award finalist, Printz Honor book, and has appeared on the list of the most banned books every year since its publication. Twenty years later, she released her *New York Times* bestselling memoir-in-verse, *Shout*, about surviving sexual assault at the age of thirteen. In recognition of her impressive body of work and tireless work against censorship, she is the 2023 winner of the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to children’s and young adult literature and has been recognized by the National Coalition Against Censorship and the National Council of Teachers of English. She is a member of RAINN’s National Leadership Council and frequently speaks about supporting survivors of sexual assault and bringing perpetrators to justice.



Darcie Little Badger

When Darcie Little Badger was in the first grade, she wrote a 40-page mystery involving a murdered garden and opals in an attic. Her storytelling continues today as an earth scientist with a PhD in oceanography, a writer, and a fan of the weird, beautiful, and haunting. She draws on the traditional Lipan Apache storytelling structure to weave together fantasy, nature, family, and justice. Her Locus Award-winning debut novel, *Elatsoe*, was a National Indie Bestseller named to over a dozen best-of-year lists and featured in *Time Magazine* as one of the best 100 fantasy books ever. Her second novel, *A Snake Falls to Earth*, received a Nebula Award, an Ignite Award, a Newbery Honor, and was longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. She has contributed to several compilations featuring Indigenous voices. Her latest book, *Sheine Lende*, deepens and expands her one-of-a-kind world and introduces us to another cast of characters that will wind their way around readers’ hearts.



Cozbi A. Cabrera

This year’s Prairie State Award winner, Cozbi A. Cabrera, finds joy in creating things that provide a place of sense and memory. After receiving a BFA from Parsons School of Design, Cozbi was an art director creating music packaging in New York. She left her dream job to make handmade collectible cloth dolls (Muñecas) in honor of her Honduran heritage. Her dolls and other textile work have been featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Martha Stewart Living*, catalogues as well as the Jewish Fund Gallery, Ernest Rubenstein Galleries, and the Lincoln Center Education Art Gallery. Her talent also translates to books. She is the author/illustrator of *Me & Mama*, which won a 2021 Coretta Scott King Honor and a Caldecott Honor and *My Hair is a Garden*. She has also collaborated with authors such as Suzanne Slade (*Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*), Leslé Honoreé (*Brown Girl, Brown Girl*), Patricia McKissack (*Stitchin’ and Pullin’ A Gees Bend Quilt*), and Nikki Grimes (*Thanks A Million*).



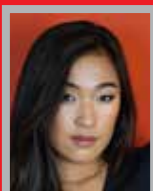
Dare Coulter

You can't spell heart without art, and Dare Coulter has worked to create a career that focuses on heartfelt presentations of the human experience, life, joy, and resilience. She is an award-winning professional sculptor, artist, muralist, and illustrator. She has illustrated ten children's books, including Kwame Alexander's *An American Story* which earned the 2024 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Book Award, as well as her adaptation of the nursery rhyme *You Are My Sunshine*. Dare creates imagery that reflects the fullness and vibrancy of the black cultural experience in all of her books and artwork. Some of her most notable work includes a commissioned painting of Nina Simone for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a 200-foot mural in Greensboro honoring oft-unmentioned black cowboys, and a monument to black joy and resilience on the University of North Carolina campus at Wilmington. Her dream is to create monumental sculptures for black joy and share her passion for art all over the world.



Candace Fleming

Candace Fleming awarded herself the Newbery Medal in fifth grade after scraping the gold sticker off the class copy of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and pasting it onto her first novel—a ten-page, ten-chapter mystery called *Who Done It?* She's been collecting her own awards ever since. Today, Candace is the versatile and acclaimed author of more than forty award-winning books, including biographies, picture books, middle-grade novels, nonfiction, and teen novels for young readers. She has tackled historical nonfiction using a narrative voice that employs a blend of humor and research to tell stories such as *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of the Russian Empire*; *The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II*, and her upcoming *Death in the Jungle: Murder, Betrayal, and the Lost Dream of Jonestown*. Her picture books bring information and joy to younger readers, such as the Sibert Award winners *Giant Squid* and *Honeybee: The Busy Life of APis Mellifera*.



Liz Kleinrock

Liz Kleinrock (she/her) understands the intersectionality of identity more than most. She is a Korean-American transracial adoptee, queer, Jewish, antibias, and antiracist educator of both children and adults. Her journey to embrace her complex identity and find spaces for belonging has shaped her transformative work in helping educators create anti-bias curricula featuring inquiry-based units of study for K-12 students. She practices what she preaches as she has taught across the country in various grades. In 2018, Liz received the Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2019, she delivered her TED Talk, "How to Teach Kids to Talk about Taboo Topics." In the spring of 2021, Liz released her bestselling book for educators, *Start Here, Start Now: A Guide to Antibias and Antiracist Work in Your School Community*. Her work is about reaching kids, so she doesn't limit herself to writing to educators. She has also co-written picture books representing her history and identity, including *Eyes That Weave the World's Wonders* and *What Jewish Looks Like*.



Kass Minor

Kass Minor believes in the power of teachers to create a community for learning and justice. She is an inclusive educator and community organizer deeply involved in local, inquiry-based teacher research and school community development. She is the author of *Teaching Fiercely: Spreading Joy and Justice in Our Schools*. While she has worked in partnership with the University of Chicago, Teachers College, The Author Village, and the New York City Department of Education, the classroom teacher is her most coveted role. Kass reads books like other people listen to albums; the classroom is her concert space. While Kass's organizing work in school communities is inspired by her NorthStars Myles Horton and Fannie Lou Hamer, her pedagogy is centered on joy from the communities that surround her and motivated by the idea that every adult can teach and every student can learn. Teacherhood, paired with motherhood, has driven her love of information sharing and redefining who gets to be a knower in the fiery world we live in today.

TELL
YOUR
STORY

Teaching Students to Become
World-Changing Thinkers and Writers

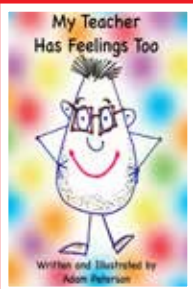


PAUL ALLYN & ERNEST MORRELL



Ernest Morrell

It would be impossible to capture all of Ernest Morrell's accomplishments in a short biography. Since 2015, he has been annually ranked among the top university-based education scholars and has been recognized by many organizations for his work. His dedication to critical pedagogy and literacy is evident as the Associate Dean of Humanities and Equity in the College of Arts and Letters, a Coyle Professor in English and Africana Studies, and Director of the Center for Literacy Education at Notre Dame. He is also the Director of NCTE's Squire Office for Policy Research, an elected National Academy of Education member, and an American Educational Research Association fellow. He has authored or co-authored nearly 120 articles, chapters, and books, including *Tuned in Teaching: Centering Youth Culture for an Active and Just Classroom* and *Tell Your Story: Teaching Students to Become World-Changing Thinkers and Writers*. He has partnered with multiple publishers to develop inclusive curricula, such as Savvas' My Perspectives and My View.



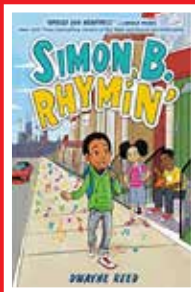
Adam Peterson

Adam Peterson embraces the best of humanity by reminding us to find the people who make our days brighter and "be the yellow" for others. He is an award-winning educator from Illinois and an internationally recognized speaker. After spending more than a decade as a kindergarten teacher, Adam uses his knowledge and talents to inspire, educate, and motivate other teachers to create classrooms that encourage creativity, play, and engagement. Adam is a best-selling author who has written several children's books, such as *Yellow* and *My Teacher Has Feelings Too*. He also spreads his message of kindness and joy to teachers with his two professional books – *Teach, Play, Learn!* and *The Science Box*. Adam is also a TEDx speaker, and his message of making the world a brighter place through his *Be The Yellow* talk and campaign has reached schools around the globe with videos and assemblies for kids. He has a must-listen podcast, "*On My Way to School*," designed to inspire and motivate teachers across all grades and content.



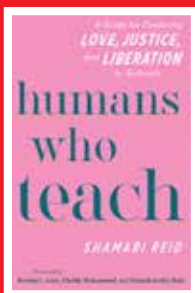
Darius Phelps

Darius Phelps is a writer who writes because he chooses to. Ask him to drop a few lines, and your heart will intertwine with his as he lays out his truth. He has been known to share his poetry at venues ranging from city hotspots to stuffy hotel conference rooms. A PhD Candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University, he is the Assistant Director of Programs under The Center for Publishing & Applied Liberal Arts (PALA) department at NYU. An educator, poet, spoken word artist, and activist, Darius writes poems about grief, liberation, emancipation, and reflection through the lens of a teacher of color and experiencing Black boy joy. His poems have appeared in the *NY English Record*, *NCTE English Journal*, *Pearl Press Magazine*, *ëN Magazine*, and many more. He shares how to create liberating spaces for students by demonstrating how teachers can use their stories to reflect, strengthen their literacy instruction, and cultivate a space of bravery, healing, and love in their classrooms.



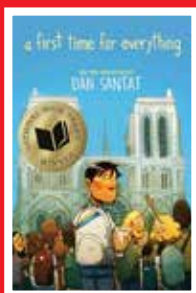
Dwayne Reed

Dwayne Reed is the teacher you always wished you had! He is America's Favorite Rapping Teacher and the Chief Enthusiasm Officer (CEO) of *TeachMrReed*, the global education company inspiring the world to make learning fun again. After becoming a viral sensation with his YouTube series, *Mr. Reed Reads*, and appearances on *Good Morning America*, *World News Tonight*, *BBC News*, and *The Jimmy Kimmel Live Show*, he added writer to his repertoire with his children's books, *Simon B Rhymin'* series and *All Good in the Hood*. In the not too distant future, his new book for teachers will be released, and it is guaranteed to equip teachers to embrace joy, justice, and humanity in their classrooms. As an avid philanthropist, Mr. Reed has partnered with iconic brands that include 3M, Old Navy, Arby's, and Abbott Laboratories to celebrate educators and raise awareness of youth issues. Mr. Reed also supports countless youth charities, after-school programs, and educational nonprofits dedicated to student-centered learning and academic achievement.



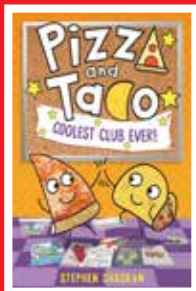
Shamari Reid

Shamari Reid (he/him/his) wants everyone to know they are special and worthy just as they are. He has spent his career centering love. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at NYU. As a scholar, Shamari's work explores how Black trans and queer youth and their communities sustain themselves amidst oppression, as well as how we can collaborate with these communities to better transform schools into sites of equitable opportunities for Black LGBTQ+ youth. His dissertation was awarded the 2022 Dissertation of the Year Award by the Queer Studies SIG of AERA. In addition, his work examines radical love as a moral imperative toward creating culturally sustaining school communities for all students and the teachers who guide them. In his latest book, *Humans Who Teach: A Guide to Centering Love, Justice, and Liberation in Schools*, he shares his heart to remind educators they are "first and foremost human," and it is within that humanity they can nurture all students.



Dan Santat

Dan Santat wore an old Wimbledon t-shirt under his tux for luck at the National Book Awards, and it must have paid off – even though he didn’t need it. He is the well-deserved 2023 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature winner for his heartwarming middle-grade graphic novel, *A First Time For Everything*. He is also the Caldecott Medal-winning creator of *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*, the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling *Are We There Yet?*, and the *New York Times*-bestselling book *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* as well as over a hundred other young people’s books. He has collaborated with numerous children’s book authors and illustrators, including Dav Pilkey (*Ricky Ricotta’s Mighty Robot* series), Samantha Berger (*Crankenstein*), Minh Le (*Drawn Together, Lift, The Blur, Built to Last*), Lisa Yee (*The Misfits* series), and Laurel Snyder (*Endlessly Ever After*). As if that does not keep him busy enough, he is the creator of *The Replacements* animated television series.



Stephen Shaskan

Stephen Shaskan has always loved comics – reading them and making them! He grew up reading *Marvel*, *DC*, *Harvey Comics*, and *Mad Magazine* and created his first comic, *Super Grandpa*, in elementary school. He is also a talented musician who plays the guitar, keyboard, and bass and has performed in multiple bands. He is the author and illustrator of several picture books, including *Big Choo*, *Toad on the Road*, *Max Speed*, *The Three Triceratops Tuff*, and *A Dog Is a Dog*, which was featured in the New York Public Library’s “Best Picture Books of the Year” list. His graphic novel series *Pizza and Taco* is a massive hit, and two more installments will be released soon. He has found a great partner in his wife, whom he met at an elementary school where he was teaching art and she was teaching writing. Together, they have collaborated on several books, including *Punk Skunks* and the graphic novel series *Q and Ray*.



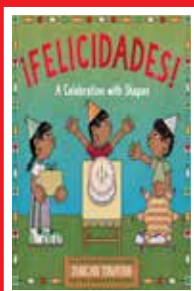
Trisha Speed Shaskan

Trisha Speed Shaskan always wanted to be Wonder Woman. She even had the tiara and the bangles to imagine herself as the mighty warrior. Following her writing dreams, she earned an MFA in creative writing from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She uses that powerful imagination today to write stories filled with wit, inspiring children to dig into their artistry to write their own stories. She has written over fifty books for children, including her most recent picture book, *The Itty-Bitty Witch*, illustrated by Xindi Yan, *Honestly, Red Riding Hood Was Rotten!: The Story of Little Red Riding Hood As Told by the Wolf*, and *If You Were a Plus Sign*. She has also collaborated on several books with her favorite illustrator, her husband, Stephen Shaskan, whom she met while teaching at the same elementary school. Their books include *Punk Skunks* and the *Q & Ray* graphic novel series for young readers. Trisha still enjoys visiting elementary schools, independent bookstores, and libraries, where she shares her passion for literature and writing.



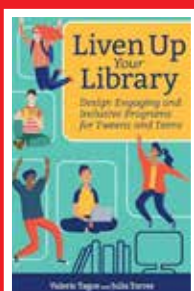
Amy Stewart

Amy Stewart understands the power of mentorship in helping students grow their literacy skills and is a great mentor. She is a literacy specialist, coach, and consultant who primarily works and learns alongside teachers and students in a small school district on the North Shore of Chicago. She also travels to districts nationwide to participate in their literacy journeys. Her work focuses on supporting educators as they implement research-based best practices while engaging students in literacy instruction. A former classroom teacher, Amy understands the importance of the role of an educator. She strives to keep practicality and responsive teaching in mind when designing learning opportunities for adults and children. She is the author of *Little Readers, Big Thinkers: Teaching Close Reading in the Primary Grades*, a book centered on the idea that knowledge building through reading and writing experiences is essential, even (and especially) for young children. She believes in the power of literacy and works toward reading and writing success for all.



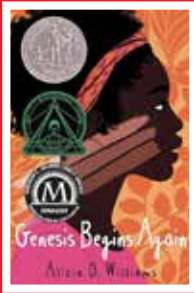
Duncan Tonatiuh

Duncan Tonatiuh (toh-nah-tee-YOU) has always straddled two cultures, and that experience has shaped his work. He grew up in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and moved to the United States when he was 15. Inspired by the Mixtec codex, Tonatiuh's art bridges the cultural divide between the Latino experience in Latin America and the United States and all intersections. He aims to create images and stories that honor the past but are relevant to people, especially children today. His awards include a Pura Belpré Medal and multiple honors, the Robert F. Sibert Medal, the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, the Américas Award, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, and multiple Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List selections and *New York Times* Best Illustrated Books mentions. His critically acclaimed works include *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours*, *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote*, *Separate Is Never Equal*, *Funny Bones*, *Soldier For Equality*, *Child of the Flower-Song People*, his latest book, *Game of Freedom*, and many others.



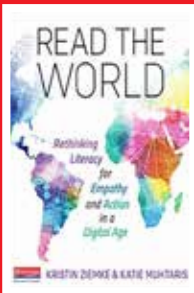
Julia E. Torres

Julia E. Torres' love language comes in the form of books, which she shares with the world through her work as a teacher-activist committed to education as a practice of freedom. She is a nationally recognized veteran language arts teacher, librarian, and teen programs administrator in Denver, Colorado. Her practice is grounded in the work of empowering students to use Language Arts to fuel transformative resistance and social progress. Julia has been awarded the 2020 NCTE Colorado Affiliate Teacher of Excellence award and chosen as a 2020 Library Journal Mover and Shaker. She serves on the Educator Collective, the Book Love Foundation, and as a Co-founder of *#DisruptTexts*. Her work has been featured across several platforms, including NCTE, NPR, *AlJazeera's The Stream*, PBS, *MindShift*, *New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, ASCD, *Rethinking Schools*, *School Library Journal*, and many more. Her co-authored title, *Liven Up Your Library: Design Engaging and Inclusive Programs for Teens and Tweens*, is the first of many forthcoming publications for librarians and educators.



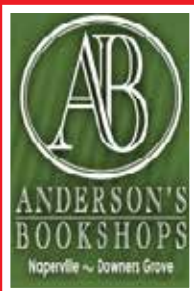
Alicia D. Williams

Alicia D. Williams likes chunky guacamole, shiny things, dancing, good stories, and great jokes. She creates books that inspire empathy and hope. A graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York, she's performed in commercials and theater, written plays, and performed in a one-woman show, *A Time to Remember*. As if that isn't impressive enough, she is the award-winning author of *Genesis Begins Again*, which was a William C. Morris finalist, and received the Newbery and Kirkus Prize honors, the Coretta Scott King – John Steptoe Award for New Talent, and the Audie award for her audiobook performance. Alicia also debuted a picture book biography, *Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston*, and followed up with Jane Addams Peace Award-winning *Shirley Chisholm Dared: The Story of the First Black Woman in Congress*. Her latest picture book, *The Talk*, won both Coretta Scott King and Golden Kite Honors. Alicia now celebrates her new novel-in-verse, *Mid-Air*.



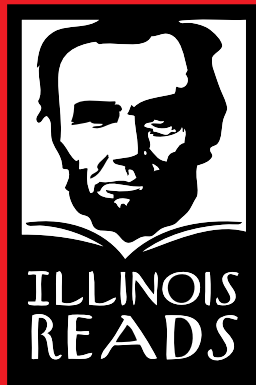
Kristin Ziemke

Kristin Ziemke celebrates innovative learning practices where thinking is at the heart of the curriculum. She is a teacher, staff developer, and co-author of *Read the World: Rethinking Literacy for Empathy and Action*, *Amplify: Digital Teaching and Learning in the K-6 Classroom*, and *Connecting Comprehension and Technology*. Recognized as an international expert in literacy, inquiry, and technology, Kristin works with schools and organizations worldwide to develop learning experiences that are student-centered, personalized, and authentic. Currently serving as a resident teacher and innovation specialist for the Big Shoulders Fund, Kristin is an Apple Distinguished Educator, National Board Certified Teacher, and Chicago Council on Global Affairs Emerging Leader. Her work has been featured by Apple, EdWeek, Mindshift, and Scholastic.



Becky Anderson Wilkins

Becky Anderson Wilkins is synonymous with books. She is recognized worldwide as a leading independent book retailer who has tirelessly promoted the importance of reading and value of book publishing. As the owner of Anderson's Bookshops in Naperville and Downers Grove, Illinois, Becky built the company's reputation to such stature that it attracts prestigious author visits for hundreds of signing events and two annual literature conferences each year. She is committed to the community and partners with local school districts to raise funds for books. Becky won a Hall of Fame Award from the Illinois Reading Council, among many other honors. In 2011, Anderson's BookShops was named *Publisher's Weekly* Bookstore of the Year—one of the highest accolades a book retailer can receive, and she personally delivered books to the White House Library, where she met President Obama. Her work carries on today as Becky continues advocating for independent bookstores, and Anderson's remains a force in the bookstore world, providing everyone with a heartfelt home for joyous reading.



Illinois Reads Authors

Plan now to attend the **Illinois Reads Author Panels** at the 2025 Illinois Reading Council Conference! Featured authors will be from the **2025 Illinois Reads Books!** There are three panels planned for Birth to 2nd Grade, Kindergarten to 5th Grade, and 6th to 12th Grade during the conference. Come participate in this exciting chance to meet and greet Illinois Reads Authors as they share the inspiration for their stories and current projects they are working on, and ask questions you've been anxious to know about your favorite characters. Following the sessions, authors will also be autographing their books in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. Books will also be available for purchase in the exhibit hall.

BIRTH TO 2ND GRADE

Thursday
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
in BOS Center B-11D



Doug Cenko
Grades K-2



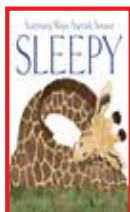
Kat Chen
Birth to Age 4



Molly Cranch
Birth to Age 4



Mary E. Haque
Birth to Age 4



Jennifer Ward
Birth to Age 4



Jacob Grant
Grades K-2



Ruth Spiro
Grades K-2



Nadia Ahmed
Grades K-2



Lisa Katzenberger
Grades 3-5



Kelly Leigh Miller
Grades 3-5



Barb Rosenstock
Grades 3-5



Fiona Cook
Grades 3 to Adult



Aphelandra Messer
Grades K-2



Janet Nolan
Grades K-2



Ronni Davis
Grades 9-12



Jeff Miller
Grades 6-8



Wendy Parris
Grades 6-8



Ann Zhao
Grades 9-12



**Sharelle Byars
Moranville**
Grades 6-8



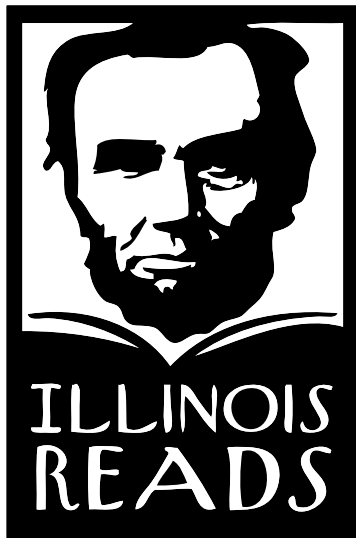
Ray Nadine
Grades 6-8



Sherri L. Smith
Grades 9-12

ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND



Join the statewide literacy initiative! Six books in each age band, birth to adult, with fun activities, book clubs, author events, and more! Order bookmarks and posters today!

Visit our website for more information
www.illinoisreads.org

Birth-4

- Can You Dance Like a Peacock?*
by Rekha S. Rajan
- Hide-and-Seek*
by Molly Cranch
- Moms Can Do It All!*
by Ted Maass
- Sleepy: Surprising Ways Animals Snooze*
by Jennifer Ward
- Painting the Sky with Love: A Celebration of Love and Community*
by Mary E. Haque
- Play Outside with Me*
by Kat Chen

K-2

- Bats Beneath the Bridge*
by Janet Nolan
- Love Grows*
by Ruth Spiro
- Somebody Needs to Do Something About That Monster!*
by Doug Cenko
- The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything*
by Nadia Ahmed
- The Heartbeat Drum: The Story of Carol Powder, Cree Drummer and Activist*
by Deidre Havrelock
and illustrated by Aphelandra
- Umami*
by Jacob Grant

3-5

- Cloud Puppy*
by Kelly Leigh Miller
- Detective Sweet Pea: The Case of the Golden Bone*
by Sara Varon
- It Belongs to the World: Frederick Banting and the Discovery of Insulin*
by Lisa Katzenberger
- Legendarios: Wrath of the Rain God*
by Karla Arenas Valenti
- One Cool Duck #1: King of Cool*
by Mike Petrik
- The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure*
by Barb Rosenstock

6-8

- Forget-Me-Not Blue*
by Sharelle Byars Moranville
- I Felt Myself Slipping*
by Ray Nadine
- Kareem Between*
by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
- Rare Birds*
by Jeff Miller
- Stage Fright*
by Wendy Parris
- The Labors of Hercules Beal*
by Gary D. Schmidt

9-12

- American Wings: Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky*
by Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein
- Dear Wendy*
by Ann Zhao
- Last On His Feet: Jack Johnson and the Battle of the Century*
by Youssef Daoudi and Adrian Matejka
- This Book Won't Burn*
by Samira Ahmed
- This Night Is Ours*
by Ronni Davis
- We Shall Be Monsters: A Novel*
by Alyssa Wees

Adult

- By Water Beneath the Walls: The Rise of the Navy SEALs*
by Benjamin H. Milligan
- Star Wars Dad Jokes: The Best Worst Jokes and Puns from a Galaxy Far, Far Away . . .*
by Kelly Knox and
illustrated by Johnny Sampson
- The Best Lies*
by David Ellis
- The Great Divide: A Novel*
by Cristina Henriquez
- The Wheel of the Year: An Illustrated Guide to Nature's Rhythms*
by Fiona Cook
- Woe: A Housecat's Story of Despair: (A Graphic Novel)*
by Lucy Knisley



ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

Welcome Reception

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wyndham Hotel Ballroom

Complimentary appetizers will be served!

Hear the Authors Read

and Late-Night Autograph Session

Thursday, March 13, 2025

8:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Wyndham Hotel Ballroom

Sponsored by Anderson's Bookshops

**Laurie
Halse Anderson**



**Darcie
Little Badger**



**Cozbi
Cabrera**



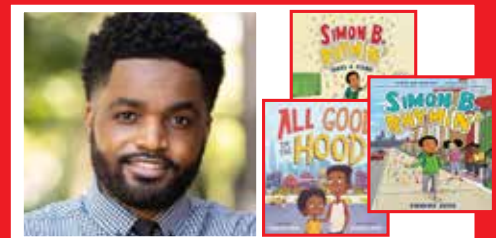
**Candace
Fleming**



**Liz
Kleinrock**



**Dwayne
Reed**



**Dan
Santat**



**Duncan
Tonatiuh**



**Alicia
Williams**



Pizza Party

for **NEW &**

Preservice Teachers



Friday, March 14, 2025

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

BOS CENTER EXHIBIT HALL

ALL New and Preservice Teachers are invited to the Friday Afternoon Pizza Party. Join us for fun, games, and FREE pizza. Everyone will receive a DOOR PRIZE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLOCK HOURS

The Illinois Reading Council is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered attendees can earn one (1) clock hour for each session attended. Please note that meal functions and other events are also only one (1) clock hour. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight (8) clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit the sessions that you attended and/or presented via the **Record of Sessions Attended Form** provided by IRC.

Please review your personal License Renewal Plan to determine which sessions fit. Be sure that your goals are broad enough to include a variety of literacy topics. The Illinois Reading Council is merely the provider. The responsibility for determining which sessions agree with your plan and are granted credits by your school district is yours.

The Illinois Reading Council will process the forms following the conference. Your clock hours will be entered directly into the **ISBE PD Plus System**. When entered, you will receive an email notification to log into your ISBE ELIS Account to complete the ISBE Evaluation Form through the ISBE PD Plus System. Once completed, you can print off your ISBE Evidence Form to keep for your records and your clock hours will be automatically added to your ISBE ELIS Account.

Plan now to attend one of the **CONFERENCE STRANDS**

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Sessions focus on issues, research, and practices related to education from birth to age eight and foundational literacy.

EQUITY, INCLUSIVITY, & BELONGING

Sessions focus on affirming & responsive teaching practices that create an inclusive learning environment and sense of belonging for all students.

EVIDENCE-BASED LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Sessions focus on comprehensive, high-quality, & evidence-based instructional practices that support the seven literacy components and differentiated needs of all children.

LITERACY LEADERSHIP & COACHING

Sessions focus on issues, research, and practices related to administrators, school board members, curriculum coordinators, teacher leaders, literacy coaches, reading specialists, and other literacy leaders working to support systemic transformation for student success.

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Sessions focus on issues, research, and asset-based educational practices that responsively and equitably support EL/ML students.

READING ENGAGEMENT

Sessions focus on fostering engagement and motivation in reading through relevancy, choice, and innovative practices to support dormant, disengaged, or disinterested readers.

SECONDARY READING LEAGUE (SRL)

Sessions focus on issues, research, and practices related to adolescent literacy and secondary or post-secondary education.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Sessions focus on supporting resilient mental health and using trauma-informed practices to create welcoming and empathetic classroom and school environments.

STEAM

Sessions focus on research, instruction, and innovative practices that embed literacy within Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and/or Math.

TEACHER EDUCATION & EARLY SERVICE

Sessions focus on issues, research, and practices related to teacher education, preservice and mentoring programs, and professional development.

TECHNOLOGY

Sessions focus on issues, research, and practices related to leveraging technology, virtual reality, and AI responsibility and equitably enhancing and expanding students' media literacy, computer literacy, and understanding of AI's impact to guide them toward becoming productive, ethical, and empathetic digital citizens.

WRITING

Sessions focus on research, instruction, and innovation in teaching writing.

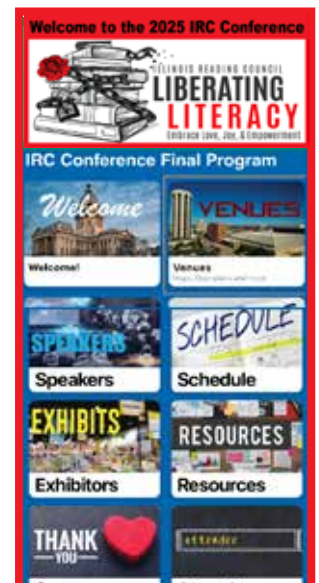
YA & CHILDREN'S LITERATURE/LIBRARIANS

Sessions focus on issues, research, and practices related to librarians or teachers building classroom libraries to promote current, diverse, high-quality children's or Young Adult (YA) literature and effective instructional practices.

IRC Conference App

Schedule, Handouts, and More

Download the **FREE IRC CONFERENCE APP** from the Apple Store, Android Marketplace, or the IRC Conference Website. The guide will feature an up-to-date conference schedule, exhibitor information, handouts, and more. The guide will be available starting **February 15, 2025**.



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Registration – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception – Wyndham Hotel Ballroom – <i>Darius Phelps</i>	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Registration – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Orientation for New Participants – PAL Hotel Bond Room	7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
Thursday Breakfast – PAL Hotel Ballroom – <i>Dan Santat</i>	7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Exhibits – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Hall of Councils Raffle Baskets – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Refreshments in Exhibit Area – Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Luncheon – Wyndham Hotel Ballroom – <i>Liz Kleinrock</i>	12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday Luncheon – PAL Hotel Ballroom – <i>Laurie Halse Anderson</i>	12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday Lunch Sessions – Bank of Springfield Center	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	2:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Refreshments in Exhibit Area – Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday PSA Banquet – PAL Hotel Ballroom – <i>Alicia D. Williams</i>	6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Hear the Authors Read and Autographing – Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom	8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Friday, March 14, 2025

Registration – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday Breakfast – PAL Hotel Ballroom – <i>Darcie Little Badger</i>	7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Exhibits – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hall of Councils Raffle Baskets – Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Refreshments in Exhibit Area – Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Friday Luncheon – Wyndham Hotel Ballroom – <i>Ernest Morrell</i>	12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday Luncheon – PAL Hotel Ballroom – <i>Duncan Tonatiuh</i>	12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday Lunch Sessions – Bank of Springfield Center	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	2:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
New and Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party – Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
IRC Annual Membership Meeting – Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special appreciation is extended to the following professionals for their extensive contributions to the success of the 2025 IRC Conference.

PUBLISHERS & BUSINESSES

Anderson's Bookshops

Hear the Authors Read
Featured Speaker Books
New & Notable Books with Becky Anderson Wilkins

Crossland Literacy

Shamari Reid, Kristin Ziemke

Heinemann

Featured Speaker Books

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA)

Tote Bags

Imagine Learning

Name Tag Lanyards

Lake-Cook Distributors

Student Helpers

Savvas Learning Company

Ernest Morrell
Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall on Friday Morning

Visit Springfield/SCVB

Illinois Reads Author Panels

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS & STAFF

Cindi Koudelka, *2025 IRC Conference Chair*
Deb Augsburger, *Assistant Chair & 2026 Chair*
Pat Braun, *Meal Tickets*
Barb Chrz-White, *Registration*
Lynette Evans, *New & Preservice Pizza Party*
Karen Kortkamp, *Exhibits*
Brenda Kraber, *Autographing*
Greg Micek, *Greeters/Hospitality*
Roxanne Owens, *Autographing*

Carol Owles, *New & Preservice Pizza Party*
Sheila Ruh, *Technology*
Katie Russell, *Greeters/Hospitality*
Sherry Sejnost, *Technology*
Carrie Sheridan, *Executive Director*
Alaina Weatherford, *Signs*
Melissa Wheeler, *Meal Tickets*
Jennifer Young, *Special Events*

2024-2025 ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - **Melissa Stinnett**
President Elect - **Cindi Koudelka**
Vice President - **Deb Augsburger**
Past President - **Julie Hoffman**

Treasurer - **Diana Wilkie**
Recording Secretary - **Melissa Wheeler**
ILA State Coordinator - **Amy Davis**
Director of Membership - **Donna Herman**

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION



Please take a moment to read the information below regarding the 2025 IRC Conference.

- **IRC Conference is an Open Forum**

The IRC Conference serves as an open forum and exchange of ideas and opinions. Opinions that are expressed by featured speakers, program presenters, and participants do not reflect endorsements by the Illinois Reading Council.

- **Conference Sessions**

All conference sessions will be held in the Bank of Springfield Center, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, and Wyndham Hotel.

- **Pre-Registration & Registration**

Pre-registered conferees may obtain their registration packets at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. On-site registration is also available. Hotel reservations and meal function tickets should be secured prior to arrival in Springfield. Registration Hours: Wednesday, March 12 – 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 13 – 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 14 – 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **ISBE PD Clock Hours**

IRC is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered conference attendees can earn up to one clock hour for each session attended. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit your clock hours for the sessions that you attended and/or presented at the conference via an online form. The ISBE Evidence of Participation will be sent to you about two weeks after the conference.

- **Admission to Meetings**

Paid conferees receive a badge with their registration packet. Badges are required at all times and for all conference functions. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-purchased tickets are required for all meal functions.

- **Special Accommodations**

Individuals who need special accommodations should make specific requests in writing to the IRC office three weeks prior to the conference in order for their needs to be met.

- **Food**

All scheduled meal functions require pre-purchased tickets. The concession area in the Bank of Springfield Center will be open during exhibit hours. Springfield restaurant information will be available at the hospitality table in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

- **Hospitality & Information Table**

A hospitality and information table is located in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

- **Message Board**

There will be a message board for conferees to leave notes in the registration area in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. A phone line (309-454-1341) has been established at the Registration Desk to receive emergency phone calls.

- **Lost and Found**

Inquire at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center regarding lost and found items. IRC is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

- **Parking Options**

Downtown Springfield has many public parking options that cost anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a day to park. Details on the public parking will be available under the Resource Tab in the Conference APP.

- **Program Book and Conference APP**

In accordance with ILA guidelines, individuals have not been designated by titles. Acknowledgments to publishers and other companies for sponsoring speakers and special events are current as of this printing. Information in this program is subject to change. **Don't forget to bring a device to download the Conference App or the PDF of the Final Program Book as there will not be a printed Final Program Book.**

- **No Smoking**

In consideration of others we request your cooperation in observing the NO SMOKING regulations inside buildings.

- **Cell Phones**

Please silence phones during sessions at the conference.

- **Videotaping/Audiotaping/Photos**

Unless notified in writing, registration to the conference constitutes an agreement that the registrant's image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs of such events and activities. It is also not permitted to videotape, audiotape, or take photos of conference speakers without the speaker's consent.

- **Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) does not allow harassment or discrimination of any kind at any IRC affiliated event. IRC and its affiliates will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy including removal from the event. To report an issue, please visit the Event Registration Desk.

- **Cancellation/Refund Policy**

Conference refund requests must be in writing and postmarked by February 1, 2025. Requests can also be faxed to (309) 454-3512 or emailed to irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org. A \$25 processing fee will be assessed. Please note that membership fees are non-refundable. Conference registrations are transferable, but replacement names must be requested by March 5, 2025.

For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Pre-Conference Sessions Wednesday, March 12, 2025

7:00 – 8:30

Welcome Reception
Embracing Every Hue: Using Our Narratives to Cultivate Healing (All) *Featured Speaker: Darius Phelps*

Conference Sessions Thursday, March 13, 2025

7:00 – 7:45

Orientation to the IRC Conference (All) *Presenters: Sherry Sejnost, Sheila Ruh*

7:00 – 8:30

Thursday Breakfast
A Slow Growing Mass of Tangible Thoughts
Featured Speaker: Dan Santat

8:30 – 9:30

Sharp Truth in a Distant Mirror (All) *Featured Speaker: Laurie Halse Anderson*

Turning Students Into Nonfiction Detectives (PreK-9)
Featured Speaker: Candace Fleming

Characters! Comics! Collaboration! (PreK-6) *Featured Speakers: Stephen Shaskan, Trisha Speed Shaskan*

Antibias Instruction Through an Inquiry Lens (All) *Featured Speaker: Liz Kleinrock*

Daily Doses of Digital Literacy to Spark Reading, Writing, and Thinking! (PreK-9) *Featured Speaker: Kristin Ziemke*

Exploring the Greater Literacy Landscape: Activating the Teaching and Learning Lives that We Want and Our Students Need (All) *Featured Speaker: Kass Minor*

An Oral and Written Learning Design Model for ELD Middle School Students (4-9, ELL, Univ) (Multilingual Learners)
Presenters: Mary Strong, Dorothy Idris

When Art and Reading Collide: Using Picture Books to Enhance Classroom Instruction (PreK-6, Spec) (Early Childhood)
Presenter: Sherry Abdelhadi

Teaching Consent Through YA Literature (9-12) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters: Genevieve Sherman, Deborah Will*

How to Embed the Seven Essential Literacy Skills into Your Content Area (4-12) *Presenter: Peg Grafwallner*

Breaking the Writing Barrier: Understanding Reluctance and Strategies to Inspire Engagement (4-12, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Writing) *Presenter: Kristen Walsh*

Hosting a Successful Book Club at Your School (PreK-6, Lib)
Presenters: Rebecca Meisinger, Nefret Stringham

Observing and Coaching Explicit Instruction in the Classroom (PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Tari Jansen*

Co-Teaching in the Middle School ELA Classroom: Where do WE Start? (4-9) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters: Amy Jachowicz-Damrow, Steffanie Castro*

Emergent Literacy and Joint Attention Development in Autistic Preschoolers (PreK-3, Spec) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging)
Presenters: Brooke Sawyer, Denise Davidson

Simplify Reading for All Students (6-12, ELL, Spec, Lib) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter: Tasha Squires*

Beyond Beginning Reading: Advanced Phonics and Morphological Awareness (PreK-9, ELL, Spec) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters: Melanie Walski, Amy Butler*

Using Literature Circles with English Language Learners (4-12, ELL) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenter: Kristin Lems*

Once Upon A Time ... Fairy Tales and Fun (PreK-3, ELL, Spec) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters: Meg Billhartz, Emily Hemann*

GRRRRing Our Way Through Middle School ELA (6-9)
Presenters: Marissa Stratton, Jill Mutzbauer

Timeless Tools for Teaching: Using Picture Books in Literacy Instruction (PreK-3) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters: Kari Pawl, Samantha Caesar*

Race to Successful Writing (4-9, Spec) (Writing) *Presenter: Jennifer Jacknewitz*

9:45 – 10:45

Historical Facts + Imagination = Engaged Readers and Writers (All) *Featured Speaker:* Laurie Halse Anderson

Writing Great Nonfiction With Kids (PreK-9) *Featured Speaker:* Candace Fleming

How Do You Tell a Story That Hurts and Still Loves? (All) *Featured Speaker:* Dare Coulter

No Child Left Behind (All) *Featured Speaker:* Alicia D. Williams

Daily Doses of Digital Literacy to Spark Reading, Writing, and Thinking! (All) *Featured Speaker:* Kristin Ziemke

Unpacking Struggle: Finding Strengths Within a School for Complex Learners (All) *Featured Speaker:* Kass Minor

Teachers Helping Students Think Critically: Aligning Read Aloud Questions to Bloom's Taxonomy (PreK-3) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter:* Amy Davis

Building Strong Readers: Bridging Gaps in Language Comprehension (PreK-6) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Danielle Beliveau-Derion

From Classroom Storytellers to Best Sellers: Empowering Educators to Unlock their Author Potential All) (Writing) *Presenter:* Tiffaney "AKA Fenyx Blue" Washington

The Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (ICLP) and What it Means for Advanced and Accelerated Literacy Learners (All) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Laura Beltchenko

An Introduction to AI: Harnessing AI for the Classroom (All) (Technology) *Presenter:* Wendy Streit

Diversity Matters: Learn How to Build a Virtual Library to Allow Your Students Mirrors and Windows to the World! (PreK-6, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* Diana Brannon

Building and Crossing the Bridge in Supporting Neurodiverse Learners (All) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters:* Lindsey Sanderson, Wambui Ojo

Building the Foundation for Successful Readers in Only 10 Days! (PreK-6, ELL, Spec) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters:* Christine Swiderski, Hailey Rovetuso, Mary Anne Flanigan

Collaboration Is More Than Interaction: How to Create a Collaborative Culture that Strengthens the Alignment and Impact of Tiered Instruction (All) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenters:* Kari Harris, Kim Spiker

The Essential Roles of Engagement, Interest, Attitude, Motivation & Collaboration in Successful Reading, & Strategies that Work! (PreK-3, ELL, Admin) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Sarah Elizabeth

Empowering English Literacy for Arabic Speaking Students (PreK-6, ELL) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenter:* Janice Eilken

Orthographic Mapping in First and Second Language Decoding and Spelling (PreK-6, ELL) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenters:* Kristin Lems, Samantha Contreras, Jen Parisi

Making Reading Accessible to Newcomers, ELs and Multilinguals (PreK-6, ELL) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenters:* Jessica Valverde, Mayra Romero

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award: Embracing the Love, Joy, and Empowerment of Student Choice (4-9, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenter:* Ruth Gheysen

Building Literacy Foundations: Content Knowledge and Instruction for Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Instruction (PreK-3, Spec) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Samantha Caesar

Writing: Let's Puzzle It Out Together! (All) (Writing) *Presenters:* Keta Foltz, Amber Findlay, Christa Curley

11:00 – 12:00

The Little Things (All) *Featured Speaker:* Dan Santat

Finding the Heart (All) *Featured Speaker:* Cozbi A. Cabrera

New and Notable Books for Grades K-3 (PreK-3) *Featured Speaker:* Becky Anderson Wilkins

Illinois Reads Author Panel for Birth to 2nd Grade (Birth-2) *Featured Panelists:* Doug Cenko, Kat Chen, Molly Cranch, Jacob Grant, Mary E. Haque, Ruth Spiro, Jennifer Ward

Excavation Leads to Emancipation: The Power of Poetry in English Education (All) *Featured Speaker:* Darius Phelps

Energize End-of-Year Literacy Learning: Fresh Strategies for the Final Stretch (PreK-6) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Maria Walther

Embrace Oracy: Empower All Children to Find Their Voice and Build a Foundation for Literacy (PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenters:* Heidi Marchetti, K. Mallery Keenan

Cultivating a Culture of Reading by Curating a Collection (PreK-9, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* Cindy Gerwin

Breaking the Language Barrier: Best Practices for Developing Reading and Writing Proficiency for English as a Second Language Learners (PreK-6, ELL, Admin) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenter:* Briana Young

Author Visits: Beyond the Basics, Beyond the Books (All) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenters:* Alice McGinty, Sarah Aronson

Illinois Authors and Agriculture (PreK-6) *Presenter:* Kevin Daugherty

Writing Woes: Searching for Focus in Student Writing (4-12, Admin) (Writing) *Presenter:* Steven Layne

The Wizardry of Words: Casting Spells for Vocabulary Mastery and Curiosity (PreK-6, ELL, Lib) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters:* Suzanne Weider Kristen Robinson Carrie Werner

Book Clubs: Liberation from the Canon (6-12) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters:* Kathryn Jones, Brandon Thompson

Heart Books to Inspire Readers *Presenters:* Katie Russell, Greg Micek

Read, Draw, Write: Unlocking Math Word Problems for All Learners (PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters:* Elizabeth Buglio, Rebecca Ehman

Unveiling the Education Code: Cultivating Equitable Learning Environments (PreK-9, Admin) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter:* Larue Fitch

Unpacking Oracy: Enhancing Literacy Practices through Intentional Implementation (PreK-3) *Presenters:* Kari Pawl, Annette VanAken

Meeting the Literacy Needs of Our PreK-2 Learners (PreK-3, ELL, Admin) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters:* Anastasia Gruper, Elise Dean, Rebecca Morton

Boundless Book Clubs: Engaging Readers Through Choice (9-12) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters:* Brian Roach, Anna Jakubowski

Books for Struggling Readers Grades 5-12 (6-12, Lib) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters:* Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley, Tambree Krouse, Leslie Forsman, Dawn Taylor

No Time to Lose: Tips for Engaging Your Learners to Make the Most of Instructional Time (PreK-6) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Angie Levan

1:00 – 2:00

Illinois Reads Author Panel for Kindergarten to 5th Grade (PreK-6) *Featured Panelists:* Nadia Ahmed, Fiona Cook, Lisa Katzenberger, Aphelandra Messer, Kelly Leigh Miller, Janet Nolan, Barb Rosenstock

Characters! Comics! Collaboration! (PreK-6) *Featured Speakers:* Stephen Shaskan, Trisha Speed Shaskan

Book Gossip (All) *Featured Speaker:* Becky Anderson Wilkins

Improving Reading Skills Through Storytelling (PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Admin, Lib) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenter:* Michael Lockett

From Letting It Happen to Making It Happen: A School District's Journey Through Implementation (PreK-6, Admin) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenters:* Samantha Chatman, Meri Havenar

Helping Minimize the Cognitive Workload of the English Learner: An Overview Along with a Special Focus on Cross-Linguistic Connections (All) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenter:* Antonio Fierro

Supporting Writing Mini-lessons Using Your Benchmark Advance Resources (PreK-6, ELL) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Shauna Williams

Sound Walls & Decodables: The Dynamic Duo for Literacy Success (PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Ethan Lynn

Agency and Identity: Pathways Towards Developing Writers (PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Writing) *Presenter:* Pat Pollack

Connecting the Art of Teaching with the Science of Reading (PreK-6, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters:* Eileen Townsend, Julie Quirk, Jeff Brill

Building Foundational Literacy Using a Multisensory-Phonemic Approach (PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Jennifer Orr

Learning to Improve: Developing Effective Leadership Systems (PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenters:* Ketesha Melendez, Lauren McDonald

Bring the Magic of Kinesthetic Learning to Your Literacy Instruction (PreK-6) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Jennifer Burchfiel

From Scavenger Hunts to Interactive Note Making: How Practical Instructional Tools Can Help You Nurture Proficient Readers in Every Classroom (All) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Sharon Nepote

12:15 – 2:00

Thursday Luncheon
Antibias Instruction Through an Inquiry Lens
Featured Speaker: Liz Kleinrock

Thursday Luncheon
Finding Your Courage When Things Fall Apart
Featured Speaker: Laurie Halse Anderson

2:15 – 3:15

Illinois Reads Author Panel for 6th to 12th Grade (6-12)*Featured Panelists:* Ronni Davis, Jeff Miller, Sharelle Byars Moranville, Ray Nadine, Wendy Parris, Sheri Smith, Ann Zhao**How to Locate Your Voice in Picture Book Making (All)***Featured Speaker:* Cozbi A. Cabrera**Out of the Picture: Artists' Responsibility for Pain in Cultural Contexts (All)** *Featured Speaker:* Dare Coulter**Our Lives are Stories (All)** *Featured Speaker:* Alicia D. Williams**From Scribbles to Stories: Empowering Developing Writers with Traditional and Digital Tools (PreK-6)** *Featured Speaker:* Kristin Ziemke**Thought Sanctuary (All)** *Featured Speaker:* Kass Minor**I Think My Student Needs an IEP or a 504, Now What? (PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging)** *Presenter:* Shelley Kenow**Using Disaster Stories to Engage Students while Meeting SEL Standards (PreK-9) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL))** *Presenter:* David Wood**Taming Inquiry: Taking the Chaos out of the Classroom with Investigation (4-9) (Writing)** *Presenter:* Elaina O'Hara**Moving From Rigor to Vigor in Writing (4-12) (Writing)** *Presenter:* Peg Grafwallner**Read, Write, Action: Engaging Adolescents Through the Power of Multimedia Memoir (4-12, Univ, Admin) (Technology)** *Presenters:* Kristen Walsh, Donna Werderich**Book Joy for Neurodivergent Readers: Creating an Environment Where Developmentally Delayed Readers Feel Comfortable with Books (PreK-9, ELL, Spec) (Reading Engagement)** *Presenters:* Nancy Roop, Megan Cavanaugh**Unlocking the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (All)** *Presenter:* Donna Herman**Using Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Texts to Teach Across All Components of Literacy (PreK-3, ELL, Univ, Admin, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging)** *Presenter:* Mary Lyons**Help, My Students Need More! How Do I Choose an Effective Literacy Intervention and How Will I Know it Worked? (All) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction)** *Presenters:* Kari Harris, Kim Spiker**How to Create Feedback that Feeds Student Growth (All)** *Presenters:* Gena Lewis, Annette VanAken**Enhancing Critical Thinking through Reflection in an AI-Centric World (6-12) (Technology)** *Presenters:* Kourtney Hake, Paige Timmerman**Enhancing Literacy Intervention to Move Students Forward: Strategies for Tutoring Under-Performing Students (PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib) (Reading Engagement)** *Presenter:* Margaret Policastro**Building a Better Vocabulary (6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults) (Secondary Reading League (SRL))** *Presenters:* Jennifer Lancaster, Kim Hollis**We Can't Do This Alone: How Educators and Librarians Can Work Together to Offer Free Professional Development for Teachers and Teacher Candidates Around Building Inclusive Classroom Libraries (PreK-9, Spec, Univ, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging)** *Presenters:* Jennifer Shah, Nicole Lawton

3:30 – 4:30

Teaching Graphic Novels For Kids (All) *Featured Speaker:* Dan Santat**Characters! Comics! Collaboration! (PreK-6)** *Featured Speakers:* Stephen Shaskan, Trisha Speed Shaskan**New and Notable Books for Grades 4-8 (4-9)** *Featured Speaker:* Becky Anderson Wilkins**Antibias Instruction Through an Inquiry Lens (All)** *Featured Speaker:* Liz Kleinrock**A Place Where Souls Can Rest: Black Girl Freedom, Liberation, and Emancipation (All)** *Featured Speaker:* Darius Phelps**Teach, Play, Learn! (PreK-3)** *Featured Speaker:* Adam Peterson**Understanding Behavior: Lessons for a Lifetime (All) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL))** *Presenter:* Shelley Kenow**Bringing Writing to Life: The Essential Components of Effective Writing Instruction (PreK-6, Admin) (Writing)** *Presenter:* Kristy Rauch**Using Benchmark Universe to Enhance Learning (PreK-6, ELL) (Technology)** *Presenter:* Shauna Williams**I Can Read ... Music! (6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Univ) (Reading Engagement)** *Presenter:* Yolanda Williams

Building a Foundation for Literacy: The Power of Sound Walls (PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Karyn Tomkinson

Playing with Purpose: The Importance of Play and Crafting Child-Led Centers for Standards-Aligned Learning (PreK-3) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL)) *Presenter:* Debby Spitzer

3 Secret Weapons of Secondary Reading Comprehension: Knowledge, Vocabulary, and Fluency (6-12, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Raquel McGee

Unleashing the Power of the Reading Journal: A Toolkit for Teachers (PreK-3, ELL, Spec) *Presenter:* Jennifer Burns

Embracing SoR Shifts with Discourse Routines (4-12, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Beth Cook

Liberating Student Voices: Project Ideas to Jumpstart Your Narrative Unit (6-12) (Writing) *Presenters:* Kourtney Hake, Paige Timmerman

5 Finger Syllables and SPORGLE: A New Way of Chunking Syllables and Flexing the Vowels (All) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Dick Briggs

Hip, Hip, Hooray for Oracy! (PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Early Childhood) *Presenter:* Becky McTague

Empowering Literacy: Secondary Intervention Strategies that Ignite Learning (6-12, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Laura Johnson

Barista Books (PreK-6, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* Charmonique Joiner

5:00 – 6:00

College Instructors of Reading Professionals (CIRP) Reception

6:15 – 8:15

Thursday Prairie State Award Banquet
We Are the Dreamers of Dreams
Featured Speaker: Alicia D. Williams

8:30 – 10:30

Hear the Authors Read and Autographing

IRC AWARDS

Gene Kramer ICARE for Reading Award

Jennifer Mangayao

Thursday Breakfast at the PAL Ballroom with Dan Santat

Family Literacy Award

TBA

Thursday Luncheon at the Wyndham Ballroom with Laurie Halse Anderson

Barack Obama Library Award

Ceté Brewton-Wilkin

Thursday Luncheon at the PAL Ballroom with Liz Kleinrock

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Children's Writing

Cozbi A. Cabrera

Thursday PSA Banquet at the PAL Ballroom with Alicia D. Williams

IRC Hall of Fame Award

Laura Beltchenko

Thursday PSA Banquet at the PAL Ballroom with Alicia D. Williams

IRC Service Award

Diana Wilkie

Friday Breakfast at the PAL Ballroom with Darcie Little Badger

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award

Cindy Gerwin

Friday Luncheon at the PAL Ballroom with Ernest Morrell

Static Sticker Decal Contest

TBA

Friday Luncheon at the Wyndham Ballroom with Duncan Tonatiuh

Order your tickets today!

Conference Sessions

Friday, March 14, 2025

7:00 – 8:30

Friday Breakfast

Perseverance

Featured Speaker: Darcie Little Badger

8:30 – 9:30

The Shape of Picture Books (All) *Featured Speaker: Duncan Tonatiuh*

Humans Who Have Self-Regard And Teach From Love (All)
Featured Speaker: Shamari Reid

Reading that Lifts and Liberates: Empowerment Through Youth Literature (All) *Featured Speaker: Julia Torres*

Being the Educator Your Scholars Need (All) *Featured Speaker: Dwayne Reed*

Building Knowledge with Close Reading (PreK-6) *Featured Speaker: Amy Stewart*

Model, Motivate, Write, Repeat! (PreK-3) *Featured Speaker: Adam Peterson*

One Book One School: How to Turn a Simple Text into a Lifelong Memory for Your Students! (All) (Reading Engagement)
Presenters: Ryan Schaefer, Jennifer Weichle, Jean Erwin

When Students Won't/Can't Write ... Now What? (6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Univ) (Writing) *Presenter: Wendy Streit*

A Beginner's Guide to AI! (All) (Technology) *Presenter: Lisa Schwartz*

What Does the Illinois Comprehension Literacy Plan Mean for Me and My Students? (PreK-6) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Diana Brannon*

From Reading to Understanding: Transformative Techniques for Content Comprehension (4-12, ELL) (Multilingual Learners)
Presenter: Katherine McKnight

STEAM-Powered Read Alouds: Igniting Curiosity and Expanding Knowledge (PreK-6, Lib) (STEAM) *Presenter: Maria Walther*

Strengthening the Reading Rope: Evidence-Based Coaching Cycles for Literacy Success (PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter: Julianne Januszyk*

Building Community Within a Grade Level Divided (PreK-6, ELL, Spec) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters: Hailey Rovetuso, Christine Swiderski, Mary Anne Flanigan*

What Do I Do When Things Don't Go as Planned?: Workable Ways to Check the Fidelity of Instruction and Intervention (All) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter: Kari Harris*

All About the Libros: Developing Equitable Spanish Book Collections (PreK-9, ELL, Admin, Lib) (Reading Engagement)
Presenters: Heather Robertson-Devine, Paz Corral Yagman

The Power of the Think Aloud (PreK-9, ELL, Spec) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters: Saranja Hicks*

Scaffolding Tools to Integrate Phonology, Orthography and Morphology to Create Sentences Using Subject Pronouns + Irregular Verbs + Inflectional Suffixes (PreK-3, ELL, Spec) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Dick Briggs*

Mashing It Up In Middle School (4-9) (Reading Engagement)
Presenter: Bridgot Loesch

New YA Titles to Booktalk: AISLE's Lincoln Book Award (9-12, Lib) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenters: Jennifer Jazwinski, Amy Phillips*

Building Capacity with Learning Walks (All) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter: Beth Cook*

Using Preschool Data to Facilitate Effective Transitioning into Kindergarten (PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL)) *Presenter: Kelly Marie Tough*

9:45 – 10:45

Picture Books and Social Justice (All) *Featured Speaker: Duncan Tonatiuh*

A Creative Journey: Finding the Breadcrumbs Along the Way (All) *Featured Speaker: Cozbi A. Cabrera*

Liven Up Your Library: Youth Engagement in Libraries and Classrooms (All) *Featured Speaker: Julia Torres*

Writing Great Nonfiction With Kids (PreK-9) *Featured Speaker: Candace Fleming*

Word Study Routines for the Busy Classroom (PreK-6)
Featured Speaker: Amy Stewart

Whoa! What Happened To Our Room?! (PreK-3) *Featured Speaker: Adam Peterson*

Implementing Gestures into Vocabulary Instruction to Aid Recall and Retention (PreK-3) *Presenters: Emma Dilley, Amy Davis*

Books That Celebrate Kids' Joy! A Retrospective and Look Forward (PreK-12, Lib) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL))
Presenter: Deb Augsburg

The People Behind the Names on the Biggest Awards in Children's Literature (PreK-6, Lib) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenter: Gregory Bryan*

Read Allowed (6-9) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter: Kristin Richey*

Illinois Reads Books and STEAM Activities – The Perfect Combination For Student Engagement (PreK-9, Lib) (STEAM) *Presenters:* Sheila Ruh, Sherry Sejnost

Every Language is a Pathway to Knowledge: Supporting Multilingual Learners in the Content Classroom (4-12, ELL) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenter:* Katherine McKnight

Bringing the Joy Back: Creating Spaces for Readers and Writers to Find Their Identities Within a District Mandated Reading Curriculum (4-6) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Karen Biggs-Tucker

Building Stronger Readers Together: Family Reading Nights, Parent Workshop Ideas, and Beyond (All) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Natalie Biancalana

Racial Justice in America Through Literacy! (4-6, ELL) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* Brenda Mendoza

The Magic of Interactive Read Aloud (PreK-9, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* Cindy Gerwin

How Media Literacy and Reading Local News Can Empower Students to Take Action in Their Communities (9-12, ELL, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Florian Feucht

Spring into Literacy: Activities & Ideas to Encourage Student Learning & Engagement (4-9) *Presenters:* Danica Luttrell, Jen Newton

Nurturing an Empowered Classroom Community Through Poetry (6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults) (Writing) *Presenters:* Maureen Daley, Ellen Noonan, Amy Richardson

Chronic Absenteeism (PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL)) *Presenter:* Christy Ziller

In the Door and Out with a Book: Getting Teens to Re-Engage with the Library and Re-Discover Reading (9-12, Lib) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenter:* Aimee Miller

Reading Intervention at the Intermediate Level (PreK-6) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Britain Pluester

11:00 – 12:00

Weaving Our World Into Fantasy (6-12) *Featured Speaker:* Darcie Little Badger

Humans Who Have Self-Regard And Teach From Love (All) *Featured Speaker:* Shamari Reid

New and Notable Books for Grades K-8 (PreK-9) *Featured Speaker:* Becky Anderson Wilkins

Being the Educator Your Scholars Need (All) *Featured Speaker:* Dwayne Reed

But What About the High School?: Implementing the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan in Grades 9-12 (9-12, Admin) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter:* Cynthia Rousseau

Bringing Joy Back to Writing Instruction (4-12, ELL, Spec, Univ) (Writing) *Presenters:* Sophie Degener, Tina Curry

Enhancing Literacy and Learning: The Role of Learning Centers for Students in Grades 4-12 (4-12, ELL, Spec, Admin) *Presenters:* Kristen Walsh, Katie McKnight

Productive Struggle in an Inclusive Classroom (4-12, Spec) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Peg Grafwallner

Writing Tips for Reluctant Writers (PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Lib) (Writing) *Presenters:* Sarah Aronson, Anitra Schulte

Writing Woes: Searching for Focus in Student Writing (4-12, Admin) (Writing) *Presenter:* Steven Layne

Building Foundational Literacy in K-2 Learners Using a Multisensory-Phonemic Approach (PreK-3, ELL, Spec) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Jennifer Orr

Leveraging Culturally Responsive Practices to Achieve Literacy Excellence (All) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* La Tasha Fields

For the Love of Literacy: Intentionally Inspiring Students to Become Readers Through Intersectional Anti-Ableist Teaching (PreK-12) *Presenters:* Sarah Brakenbury, Jess Howard

The Science of Reading: Insights for Biliteracy Instruction (PreK-6, ELL, Adults, Univ, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters:* Laura Castro, Erica Suarez

What Does the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Tell Us About What to Prioritize With Writing? (PreK-12) (Writing) *Presenter:* Erika Lukasik

Poetry Inside Out (6-12, ELL, Spec, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters:* Brandon Barr, Albert Burford, Mark Hauber

Play On, Player! How Manipulatives and Play Can Help Scholars Enhance Comprehension (PreK-6) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Claudia Gates

For the Love of Reading: Motivating Independent Readers (6-12) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters:* Rebecca Pabst, Cindy Coyle

Our Focused Fairies: A Case Study of Community-Based Liberatory Literacy Practices with Girls of Color in Chicago (4-12) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL)) *Presenters:* Darryca Brim, Karla Manning

Empowering Students to Become Word Problem-Solvers: Instructional Methods for Teaching Morphology (4-9) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Sara Sukalski

Back to Life!: A 1st Year Librarian's Journey to Revitalize a Stagnant School Library (6-12, Admin, Lib) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenter:* Jennifer Connolly

Nurturing and Sustaining Fledgling Readers (PreK-6, Lib) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters:* Rosemary West, Leann Williamson

12:15 – 2:00

Friday Luncheon
**Research-Based Literacy Practices to Increase
 Love, Joy, and Empowerment**
Featured Speaker: Ernest Morrell

Friday Luncheon
Contemporary Codices
Featured Speaker: Duncan Tonatiuh

1:00 – 2:00

Building Knowledge with Close Reading (PreK-6) *Featured Speaker: Amy Stewart*

New and Notable Books for Young Adults (All) *Featured Speaker: Becky Anderson Wilkins*

Developing Meaningful Relationships with Parents of Neurodiverse Students (All) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter: Shelley Kenow*

Literacy Adventures with Books about Gardening, Nature, and Agriculture (PreK-9) *Presenter: Chris Wyant*

The Science of Reading: What It Is and Why It Matters (PreK-6) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Laura Stewart*

Leading Curriculum Change (All) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenters: Lainie Augensen, Katherine Chuu*

Exploring Small-Group Lesson Instruction with Benchmark Advance Resources (PreK-6, ELL) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Shauna Williams*

Drawing Connections: Utilizing Comics to Foster Multiliteracies in the Classroom (4-9) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter: Nate Olison*

Solving the Tier I Literacy Problem: Working Together to Support Student Learning (PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Karyn Tomkinson*

A Hands-on, Multisensory Approach to Teaching Phonemic Awareness and Phonics (PreK-3) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Debby Spitzer*

Teach with Chapter Books to Increase Motivation and Comprehension (4-6) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter: Sarah Collinge*

Helping Adolescent Striving Readers Access Content Area Text with Evidence-Based Practices (6-9) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters: Sophie Weich, Lauren Artzi, Alida Hudson*

Tips, Tools, & Techniques for Teaching Early Readers (PreK-3) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter: Jennifer Burchfiel*

Let Me Entertain You! Using TV Show Theme Songs to Improve Fluency & Comprehension (PreK-6, ELL) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter: Yolanda Williams*

2:15 – 3:15

Weaving Our World Into Fantasy (6-12) *Featured Speaker: Darcie Little Badger*

Humans Who Have Self-Regard And Teach From Love (All) *Featured Speaker: Shamari Reid*

School and Library Partnerships That Work: Effective and Practical Methods (All) *Featured Speaker: Julia Torres*

Being the Educator Your Scholars Need (All) *Featured Speaker: Dwayne Reed*

Partnering with AI: Creating High-Interest Texts for Skill Building with Striving Readers (PreK-12, ELL, Spec) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters: Christina Madda, Michelle Harris*

Experiencing Authentic Learning Through STEAM Stories (PreK-12, ELL, Spec) (STEAM) *Presenters: Jessica Winn, Becky Swiontek, Kristin Brynteson*

The Impact of Historical Notions of Children and Childhood on the Development of Early Children's Literature (PreK-6, Lib) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenter: Gregory Bryan*

Combating Curriculum Punishment, Embracing Fugitivity, and School-Based Trauma: Literacy for a Reckoning (All) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters: Jennifer Martin, Jen Brooks*

Implementing Family Book Clubs in Middle School (4-9, Lib) (Reading Engagement) *Presenters: Brittany Shreffler, Deanna Leitz*

Leveraging Why AI Matters in Education (6-12, ELL, Univ, Admin, Lib) (Technology) *Presenter: Elaine Roberts*

Igniting the Spark: Evidence-Based Strategies to Cultivate a Passion for Writing in the Classroom (PreK-6, Spec, Admin) (Writing) *Presenter: Angela Schaal*

Infusing Educator Preparation Programs for the Education of English Learners: The Literacy Curriculum and Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards (All) (Multilingual Learners) *Presenters:* Susan Foster, Barbara Martin

Skin, Speech, and Surveillance: Dystopian YA Literature Through a Raciolinguistic Lens (4-12, ELL, Adults, Univ, Admin, Lib) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenter:* Jennifer Erickson

3:00 – 4:00

New & Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party

3:30 – 4:30

It's a "Good Day" to Make Inferences: Helping Emergent and Reluctant Readers (PreK-3, ELL, Spec) (Reading Engagement) *Presenter:* Amy Davis

How Using Technology with Intentionality Can Ignite New Possibilities for Literacy (All) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Stacy Stewart

A Place for Paul Goble in Classrooms (PreK-6) (Librarians & Children's/YA Literature) *Presenter:* Gregory Bryan

Liberation from Trauma: Literacy as a Tool for Inclusivity and Healing (4-12, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib) (Social Emotional Learning (SEL)) *Presenter:* Julie Hoffman

An Empowerment Model for Coaching Students in Social and Emotional Learning (4-12, ELL, Spec) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter:* Linda Hopper

The Impact of Reading and Writing Practices on Students' Social Justice Stances (6-12, Adults, Univ) (Equity, Inclusivity, & Belonging) *Presenters:* Hannah Graham, Greg Bartley

Decodable Texts vs. Leveled Readers: Building a Strong Foundation for Early Literacy (PreK-3, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenter:* Lori Jurjovec, Erica Suarez

Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies in Elementary School to Strengthen Reading Performance in an Era of Challenging Standards (PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Admin) (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) *Presenters:* Billie Day, Elise Strongin, Sophie Weich

Models and Approaches to Teacher Retention and Student Literacy Attainment (All) (Literacy Leadership & Coaching) *Presenter:* Chyrese Wolf

4:45 – 5:15

Annual Membership Meeting

COFFEE BREAK

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

**8:30 to
9:30 AM**



Sponsored by

*in the Exhibit Hall
Refreshment Area*

QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME

**Complete your GAME SHEET
for a chance to win a
FREE REGISTRATION
to the 2026 IRC Conference!**

REMINDER!

Don't forget your device to download the Conference App as there will not be a printed Final Program Book.

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

Thursday, March 13, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Complimentary Refreshments

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, March 14, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coffee Break Sponsored by Savvas Learning Company

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

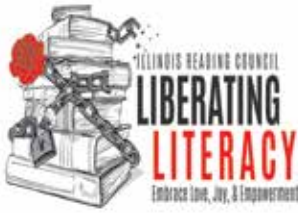
Complimentary Refreshments

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Hungry?

The BOS Center Concession Stand will be open in the Exhibit Hall.

*Or, order your **BOXED LUNCH** and head to one of the lunch time sessions
planned from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the BOS Center.*



2025 CONFERENCE SHIRT ORDER FORM

Preorder your **2025 CONFERENCE SHIRTS** by February 1, 2025. Only preorders will be available for pick-up at the IRC Conference Registration Area in the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield, Illinois. Shirts **will not** be available for purchase at the conference.

JERSEY V-NECK T-SHIRT:



Small.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
Medium.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
Large.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
XL.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXL.....	\$27.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXXL.....	\$27.00	X	_____	=	_____

REGULAR T-SHIRT:



Small.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
Medium.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
Large.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
XL.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXL.....	\$27.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXXL.....	\$27.00	X	_____	=	_____

BASEBALL JERSEY T-SHIRT:



Small.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
Medium.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
Large.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
XL.....	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXL.....	\$27.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXXL.....	\$27.00	X	_____	=	_____

FULL-ZIP HOODIE:



Small.....	\$45.00	X	_____	=	_____
Medium.....	\$45.00	X	_____	=	_____
Large.....	\$45.00	X	_____	=	_____
XL.....	\$45.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXL.....	\$47.00	X	_____	=	_____
XXXL.....	\$47.00	X	_____	=	_____

DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2025

TOTAL DUE _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to IRC and return to:

Illinois Reading Council
1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2
Normal, IL 61761

online at: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org
or fax to: (309) 454-3512

Method of Payment:

(\$1 fee if pay by credit card.)

Check to IRC Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

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Cardholder's Name _____

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BOOK CLUB

To register, return this form with payment by **January 15, 2025** to
Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761
 or register online at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or fax to 309-454-3512

Join educators from all over the state in the online **Winter 2025 IRC Book Club!** Choose one, two, or all three books!

Beginning **January 19**, participants will be reading, reflecting on, and responding in the *Humans Who Teach* book club, the *Rooted in Strength* book club, and/or the *Illinois Reads* book club during the seven-weeks of online discussions. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive **15 PD clock hours** for each book club.

For the *Humans Who Teach: A Guide for Centering Love, Justice, and Liberation in Schools* book club, the book was written by Shamri Reid. This book club will be exploring the complicated humanity of those who teach and how within their humanity lies the transformative possibilities for cultivating lives and classrooms characterized by love. For the *Rooted in Strength: Using Translanguaging to Grow Multilingual Readers and Writers* book club, the book was written by Cecilia M. Espinosa and Laura Ascenzi-Moreno. This book club will be demonstrating how our emergent bilingual students who speak two or more languages in their daily lives thrive when they are able to use “translanguaging” to tap the power of their entire linguistic and sociocultural repertoires. For the *Illinois Reads* book club, participants will be selecting books from one of the age bands of the 2025 Illinois Reads list to prepare lesson plans and activities. For Birth to 2nd Grade, participants will select a new book each week for a total of six books; for 3rd to 5th Grade, participants will select three books; for 6th to 8th Grade, participants will select two books; and for 9th to 12th Grade or the Adult age band, participants will select one book.

Required for participation:

- Gmail address (free at <https://mail.google.com/>). The Book Club uses Google Classroom, which does not work with Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc. School gmail accounts may also not work and a personal gmail account will need to be created.
- Texts: Books can be purchased from the bookseller of your choice.

Register by **January 15, 2025**, to participate in the book club. Registration is **FREE** for IRC Members. The cost for non-members is \$50, which includes IRC membership for one year. **PLEASE NOTE: The cost of book is not included.**



ONE NAME ON EACH FORM Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone () _____ Gmail Address Required _____
 Are you an IRC member? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Membership Number _____

BOOK CHOICE (Check one, two, or all three books):

_____ **HUMANS WHO TEACH** _____ **ROOTED IN STRENGTH** _____ **ILLINOIS READS** (select grade level below)
 _____ Birth-2nd _____ 3rd to 5th _____ 6th-8th _____ 9th-Adult

REGISTRATION (Check one):

IRC Members:
 _____ **BOOK CLUB** **FREE FOR IRC MEMBERS**

Non-Members:
 _____ **BOOK CLUB AND IRC MEMBERSHIP** **\$50.00**
 (From IRC Membership Form, indicate local council choice _____)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

(\$2 service charge is added if paying by CC!) **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Check (payable to IRC) Visa Mastercard Discover American Express CVV Code _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Address of Cardholder _____

Credit Card Expiration Date Mo. Yr.

IRC will be offering the Webinar Series for members only in 2024-2025. All webinars will begin at 7:00 p.m. Members who watch the live or recorded webinars can earn professional development clock hours. Mark your calendars and register to take part in this convenient, free IRC membership benefit. Members will receive monthly emails with links to register. Nonmembers can join online and email for the registration link.

September 4, 2024 ~ Peter H. Johnston

Classroom Talk and Literacy Learning



The ways in which we talk with students and arrange for them to talk with each other have substantial effects on their literacy learning. This webinar examines the relationships among classroom talk, student engagement, and individual and collective student development. It shows how the classroom choices we make, particularly our language choices, influence the qualities of the classroom learning community along with students' literate, social and emotional development.

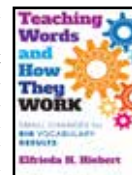


February 5, 2025 ~ Elfrieda H. Hiebert

Applying the Science of Reading in Vocabulary to Build Comprehension and Engagement



In this presentation, Freddy will share valuable insights from recent scholarly research, highlighting how vocabulary instruction can effectively support students in three key areas: expanding their word knowledge, enhancing their ability to comprehend complex texts, and facilitating the construction of knowledge from these texts. Freddy will delve into the research that shows how students can have strategies and enthusiasm for deciphering the meanings of unfamiliar words within complex texts.



October 2, 2024 ~ Priten Shah

AI in the Literacy Classroom: Friend or Foe?



Is Artificial Intelligence a revolutionary tool for literacy instruction or a threat to traditional teaching methods? This webinar explores the dilemma of AI in education. We'll examine how AI can enhance learning and save time and discuss concerns about over-reliance on technology and potential biases. Join us to critically assess AI's role in shaping the future of literacy education and decide: Is AI a valuable ally or a challenging adversary in our classrooms?

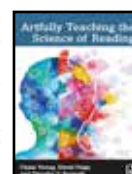


March 5, 2025 ~ Chase Young

Developing Fluent Readers



Embark on a journey to develop confident readers in this immersive session. Learn and practice strategies to boost reading fluency, from pacing to expression. Discover effective ways to overcome obstacles and personalize instruction for every learner. Leave equipped to empower students with the fluency skills they need to thrive academically and beyond.

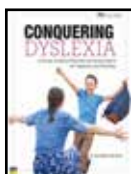


November 6, 2024 ~ Jan Hasbrouck

Understanding, Assessing, and Teaching Our Students with Dyslexia



Dyslexia is a disorder with emotional, behavioral, and social impacts. Our understanding has deepened with new technologies being used by researchers to study the complex brain functions involved in reading and writing. While the IDA has developed a definition of dyslexia based on a convergence of reading science, there still is not universal agreement on how to define it. A number of myths and misunderstandings continue to persist regarding this neurobiological disorder which must be addressed and dispelled.



April 2, 2025 ~ St. Clair Detrick-Jules

Empowerment Through Storytelling



St. Clair Detrick-Jules will share her journey to becoming an author, photojournalist, and public speaker. She'll touch on her writing process, finding subjects to include in her work, and creating spaces for people to share their stories. Themes will include representation of marginalized groups in media, cultivating community empowerment, and narrative storytelling as a vehicle of self-empowerment and social change.



December 4, 2024 ~ Kelly B. Cartwright

Why Don't My Best (Word) Readers Comprehend Text? Reading Science to Support Self-Regulated Comprehension



Some students seem to have the necessary skills they need to be good readers, yet still struggle with putting all of these things together in order to comprehend texts. In this session, we will look beyond these familiar skills to explore essential thinking skills, called executive skills, that support successful word reading and reading comprehension. Executive skills are self-regulatory skills that help students manage their thoughts, emotions, actions, and involve things like working memory, self-control, and mental flexibility.

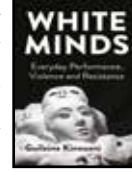


May 7, 2025 ~ Guilaine Kinouani

African Conceptualizations of Trauma



Group analysis has much to contribute to our understanding of ourselves and the world. It requires us to be deliberate, effortful and reflective; so we may start to see forms of violence which often go unnoticed and within been which we are all implicated. In this talk, we will do just that as we explore the importance of witnessing and storytelling for the survival of black groups across the globe. Trauma constitutes a form of (a)temporal and (a)spatial bodily archives which ensures that the memory of the suffering of those who came before us is kept alive across timespace and geopolitical boundaries.



January 8, 2025 ~ Becky Anderson

Discovering the 2025 Illinois Reads Books



Join Becky Anderson as she presents the Illinois Reads books for 2025. Learn more about the Illinois Reads statewide literacy initiative that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens. Six books in six age bands from Birth to Adult will be shared. A variety of book topics and themes are chosen for each age band, highlighting the work of Illinois Authors.



June 4, 2025 ~ Rachel Lesinski-Roscoe

Students Should OWN It! Fostering Secondary Students' Ability to Independently Navigate Complex Texts



Our goal is always for students to be able to navigate this world independently by applying what they learn from us. We can support that goal by not only teaching students how to use strategies, but how to independently transfer those strategies to new and unfamiliar texts. Join us in learning how to foster students' independence when working with complex text.



Illinois Reading Council

CONFERENCE HOUSING RESERVATIONS

Conference Dates – Thursday, March 13, 2025 and Friday, March 14, 2025

Special room rates have been negotiated at the hotels listed below. To obtain these special rates, reservations must be made directly with the hotel either by phone or online by **February 15, 2025**. All conference meetings and meal functions will be held at the Bank of Springfield Center, the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, and the Wyndham Hotel. Please note there will be no shuttle service from the other hotels to the BOS Center. Downtown Springfield has many public parking options that cost anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a day to park. Details on the public parking will be provided in the Springfield Maps in the Program Books and on the Conference APP.

Go to www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Select **Conference** on the menu,
then click on **Reserve Housing Online!**

ON-SITE HOTELS

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.....\$130

701 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701
217-544-8800

Group Code: IRC – Illinois Reading Council
Located adjacent to the Convention Center

Wyndham City Centre.....\$130

700 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701
217-789-1530 – By phone, press “0” for Front Desk

Group Code: IRC – Illinois Reading Council
Across the street from the Convention Center

OTHER HOTELS

Candlewood Suites.....\$90

2501 Sunrise Drive, Springfield, IL 62703
217-522-5100

Group Code: IRC – **Phone Reservations Only**
About 4.7 miles south of the BOS Center

Northfield Inn.....\$119

3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
217-523-7900

Group Code: IRC – **Phone Reservations Only**
About 4.3 miles north of the BOS Center

Carpenter Street Hotel.....\$99

525 North 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62702
217-789-9100

Group Code: IRC – **Phone Reservations Only**
About 0.7 miles west of the BOS Center

Ramada Springfield North.....\$112

3281 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
217-523-4000

Group Code: IRC – **Phone Reservations Only**
About 4.3 miles north of the BOS Center

Drury Inn & Suites.....\$135-\$144

3180 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703
217-529-3900

Group Code: IRC – Illinois Reading Council
About 5.1 miles north of the BOS Center

Residence Inn.....\$149

2915 Stanford Avenue, Springfield, IL 62703
217-527-1100

Group Code: IL Reading Council
About 4.8 miles south of the BOS Center

Hilton Garden Inn.....\$139

3100 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703
217-529-7171

Group Code: IRC – **Phone Reservations Only**
About 5.1 miles south of the BOS Center

Special room rates end on February 15, 2025!

2025 IRC Conference Registration Form for March 13 - 14, 2025 in Springfield, IL



RETURN REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:
Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Bldg 8-2, Normal, IL 61761
 Email: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org Fax: 309-454-3512 Online: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

ONE NAME ON EACH FORM Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____
 School/Business _____ City _____
 Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email (Confirmations sent by email) _____ Illinois Educator Information Number (IEIN) _____
 Telephone () _____ - _____ Presenting at Conference? _____ Position/Grade Level? _____

REGISTRATION (check one) includes sessions on Thursday and Friday. On or Before February 5, 2025 After February 5, 2025

Registration for IRC Member (Membership Number: _____)

___ Current IRC Member for the Full Conference	\$260	\$285
___ Retiree (Member)	\$60	\$85
___ Preservice Teacher with Student ID (Member)	\$60	\$85
___ Current IRC Member for One Day Only (Circle Choice: Thursday or Friday)	\$200	\$225

Registration for Non-Member (Includes one-year of IRC Membership. Select your local council: _____)

___ Non-Member for the Full Conference	\$310	\$335
___ Retiree (Non-Member)	\$110	\$135
___ Preservice Teacher with Student ID (Non-Member)	\$110	\$135
___ Non-Member for One Day Only (Circle Choice: Thursday or Friday)	\$250	\$275

OPTIONAL MEALS AND EVENTS Check choice of menu and include payment with registration.

___ Wednesday Welcome Reception with Darius Phelps (Wyndham Ballroom)	FREE	FREE
___ Thursday Breakfast with Dan Santat (PAL Hotel Ballroom)	\$30	\$35
___ Scrambled Eggs & Sausage ___ Scrambled Eggs & Vegetarian Patty		
___ Thursday Luncheon with Laurie Halse Anderson (Wyndham Ballroom)	\$40	\$45
___ Turkey & Swiss on a Pretzel Bun ___ Grilled Vegetable Napoleon		
___ Thursday Luncheon with Liz Kleinrock (PAL Hotel Ballroom)	\$40	\$45
___ Chicken Francesca with Capresa ___ Pasta Primavera with Veggies		
___ Thursday Boxed Lunch (Lunch Sessions in Bank of Springfield Center)	\$25	\$30
___ Ham Croissant ___ Grilled Vegetable Spinach Wrap ___ Chicken Caesar Salad		
___ Thursday Banquet with Alicia D. Williams (PAL Hotel Ballroom)	\$45	\$50
___ Brisket with Bourbon BBQ Sauce ___ Cauliflower & Other Veggies Steak		
___ Friday Breakfast with Darcie Little Badger (PAL Hotel Ballroom)	\$30	\$35
___ French Toast, Eggs, & Bacon ___ French Toast, Eggs, & Vegetarian Patty		
___ Friday Luncheon with Duncan Tonatiuh (Wyndham Ballroom)	\$40	\$45
___ BBQ Pulled Pork with Steak Fries ___ Portabella Ravioli		
___ Friday Luncheon with Ernest Morrell (PAL Hotel Ballroom)	\$40	\$45
___ Roast Beef with Rosemary Au Jus ___ Vegetable Stir Fry		
___ Friday Boxed Lunch (Lunch Sessions in Bank of Springfield Center)	\$25	\$30
___ Turkey Croissant ___ Grilled Vegetable Flour Wrap ___ Chicken Caesar Salad		
___ Friday Pizza Party for New and Preservice Teachers	FREE	FREE

METHOD OF PAYMENT TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ \$ _____

(No P.O.'s accepted and \$5 fee if pay by CC!)

Check (payable to IRC) Visa Mastercard Discover American Express CVV Code _____ Credit Card Expiration Date Mo. Yr.

Cardholder's Name _____ Address of Cardholder _____

Special Accommodations - Individuals who need special accommodations must make specific requests in writing to the IRC office at least three weeks prior to the conference.
 Cancellation/Refund Policy - Requests must be made in writing by February 1, 2025. Please see the complete policy under General Conference Information or at the IRC Website.
 Unless notified in writing, this registration constitutes an agreement that the registrant's image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs of such events and activities.

Group Registration Rates

Attend the conference with a group of your staff Group Rates per person:	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	10-19	20-39	40-59	60-79	80-99	100+
	Discount		10%	20%	30%	40%	50%
	Registration Fee	\$260.00	\$235.00	\$210.00	\$185.00	\$160.00	\$135.00

The group registration form is available online or register individually on page 31.

Be a Conference Volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

I would like to volunteer to work at the IRC Conference.

1. **While at the IRC Conference, I can volunteer to help for:**

- _____ 1 hour, schedule me as needed. (Circle one or all: Thursday and/or Friday)
- _____ 2 hours, schedule me as needed. (Circle one or all: Thursday and/or Friday)
- _____ 3 hours, schedule me as needed. (Circle one or all: Thursday and/or Friday)
- _____ Thursday morning block (1/2 day)
- _____ Thursday afternoon block (1/2 day)
- _____ Friday morning block (1/2 day)
- _____ Friday afternoon block (1/2 day)
- _____ Anytime, as needed.

2. **I would prefer to help in one or more of the following areas:**

- _____ Collect tickets at a meal function
- _____ Work at the registration booth
- _____ Help with book sales/autographing sessions
- _____ Help with the Tech on Call
- _____ Help with the special events and receptions
- _____ Help with the exhibits
- _____ Assist with putting up or changing room signs
- _____ Serve as a host for featured speakers
- _____ Help with the IRC Membership Booth/Treasure Chest
- _____ No preference, I will help as assigned.

Please send by February 1st to: Illinois Reading Council
1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2
Normal, IL 61761-1836

Or, fill out the online form on the Conference Page at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: 309-454-1341
Fax: 309-454-3512

Email: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Web: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

1 Please print or complete the form online.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Home Phone () _____ Bus. Phone () _____

School Name _____ District _____ City _____
or
Business/Institution _____ City _____

Are you a Preservice Teacher? ____ yes ____ no College/University _____

2 List the council(s) you wish to join.
When you join, you receive membership in the IRC, as well as membership in a local or special interest council. You must select at least one of the councils listed on the back.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

3 List the dues amount of each council you are joining.
\$50 - One year membership for IRC and one council. If you join more than one council, each additional council is \$15.
\$30 - Preservice Teacher membership and \$5 for each additional council.

4 Option to Purchase Print Journals.

IRC Membership comes with online access to the *IRC Journal*. Current issues will also be sent by email quarterly to you. If you wish to purchase a print journal, it is an additional \$20 per year.

Total Before Optional Print Journal _____

Add \$20 Fee for Print Journal _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE _____

5 Return this form with payment to:
Illinois Reading Council

ATTN: Membership Dept.
1100 Beech St, Building 8, Suite 2
Normal, IL 61761

Paying by credit card? A \$2 service charge is added.
Join Online or Fax: 309-454-3512

Method of Payment: Check to IRC Visa Mastercard Discover American Express
(Sorry, no P.O.'s accepted.)

Cardholder's Name _____ Credit Card Expiration Date Mo. Yr.

Cardholder's Address _____ CVV Code _____

6 In our continuing effort to provide meaningful services to our members, IRC requests the following information.

Are you a member of the International Literacy Association (ILA)?

a. ____ yes membership # _____ expiration date _____
b. ____ no

Professional Areas of Interest (Check 3)

- a. ____ administration
- b. ____ adult literacy
- c. ____ affective reading
- d. ____ assessment
- e. ____ children's literature
- f. ____ comprehension
- g. ____ content area reading
- h. ____ family literacy
- i. ____ holistic reading
- j. ____ multilingual/multicultural
- k. ____ newspapers in education
- l. ____ parents and reading
- m. ____ reading for gifted students
- n. ____ research
- o. ____ study skills
- p. ____ teacher education
- q. ____ technology in reading
- r. ____ Title I/remedial reading
- s. ____ young adult literature
- t. ____ young authors/writing

Age

a. ____ 18-24
b. ____ 25-39
c. ____ 40-54
d. ____ 55 and over

Years in Education Profession

a. ____ 0-4
b. ____ 5-14
c. ____ 15-29
d. ____ 30 and over

Highest Degree Earned

a. ____ Bachelors
b. ____ Masters
c. ____ Doctorate

Present Position

Classroom Teacher:

- a. ____ preschool
- b. ____ K-3
- c. ____ 4-6
- d. ____ middle school/jr. high
- e. ____ high school
- f. ____ post Secondary

Administrator:

- a. ____ curriculum/reading supervisor
- b. ____ building principal
- c. ____ superintendent
- d. ____ other _____

Other:

- a. ____ librarian
- b. ____ parent
- c. ____ special ed. teacher
- d. ____ gifted/talented teacher
- e. ____ Title I/remedial
- f. ____ reading specialist
- g. ____ retired

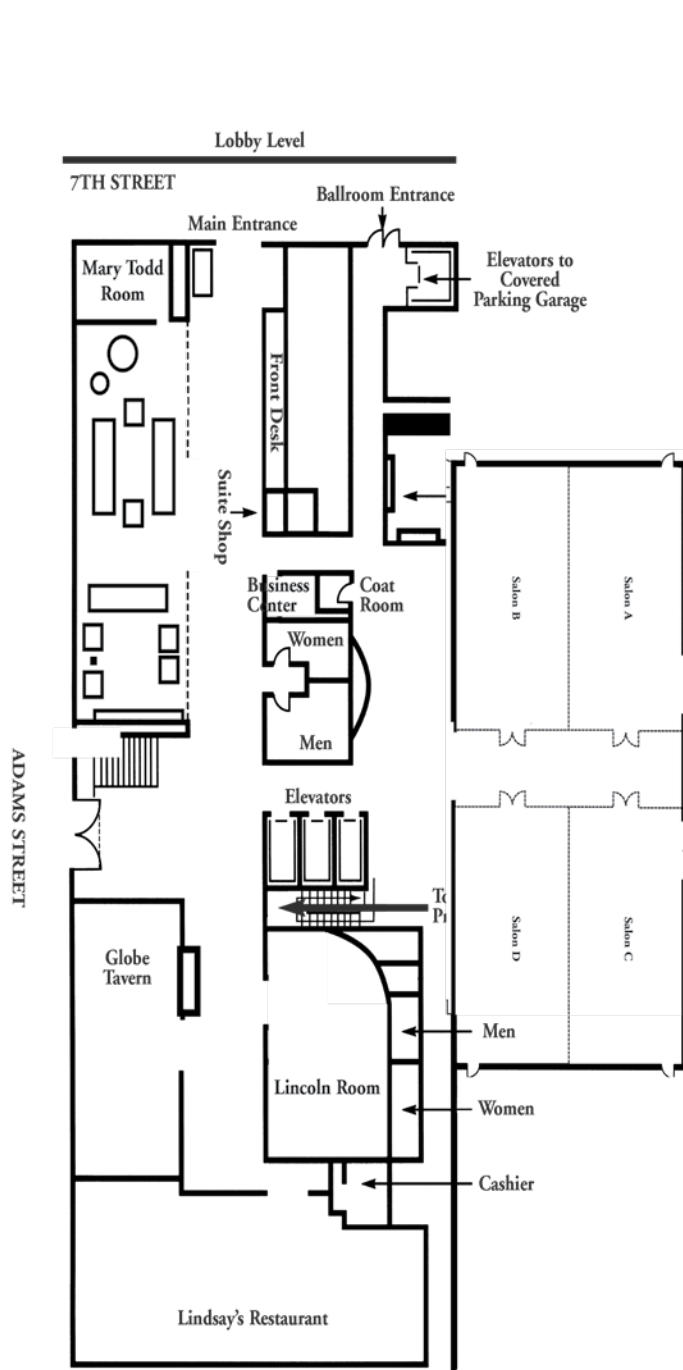
Illinois Reading Council Membership

Locations of IRC Local & Special Interest Council Regions by Counties

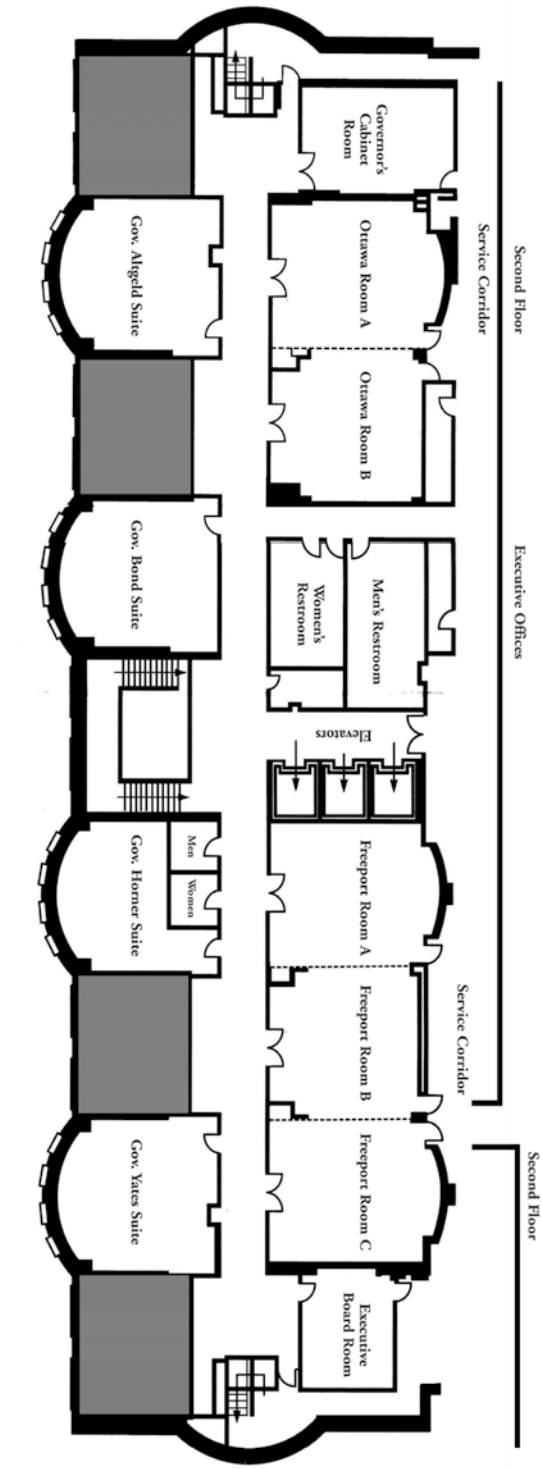
The annual membership of \$50 includes membership in the Illinois Reading Council and a local or special interest council. The annual preservice teacher membership is \$30 for one who has not been certified in the teaching profession and is working toward an initial teaching certificate. Please select the council(s) you wish to join from the list below. Residence in any of the designated council counties you join is not required. If you join more than one local or special interest council at this time, each additional council is \$15. Preservice teachers pay \$5 for each additional council. IRC Membership comes with online access to the webinars, book clubs, *IRC Journal*, and more. The *IRC Journal* and other membership benefits will also be sent by email to you. If you wish to purchase a print journal, it is an additional \$20 per year. Follow the steps on the front of this form.

REGION 1	REGION 4	REGION 7
<p>___ Northern Illinois Reading Council - (Boone, DeKalb, Winnebago, Eastern Lee & Ogle)</p> <p>___ Northwestern Illinois Reading Council - (Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll)</p> <p>___ Sauk Valley Reading Council - (Eastern Whiteside & Henry, Western Lee, Ogle, & Bureau)</p> <p>___ Starved Rock Reading Council - (LaSalle, Grundy, Kendall, Livingston, Eastern Bureau)</p>	<p>___ Black Hawk Reading Council - (Rock Island, Mercer, Western Henry & Whiteside)</p> <p>___ Illinois Valley Reading Council - (Stark, Putnam, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Eastern Fulton, Mason)</p> <p>___ Mississippi Valley Reading Council - (Adams, Brown, Pike, Scott, Greene, Calhoun)</p> <p>___ Western Illinois Reading Council - (Henderson, Warren, Knox, McDonough, Hancock, Schuyler, Western Fulton)</p>	<p>___ East Central-EIU Reading Council - (Moultrie, Shelby, Cumberland, Coles, Clark, Edgar, Douglas)</p> <p>___ Illini Reading Council - (Champaign, Piatt, Southern Ford)</p> <p>___ Vermilion Valley Reading Council - (Vermilion)</p>
REGION 2	REGION 5	REGION 8
<p>___ Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA) - (Chicago Area - Cook County within the Chicago city limits)</p> <p>___ Lake Area Reading Council - (Western Lake, McHenry, Northwestern Cook)</p> <p>___ Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA) - (Eastern Lake, Northern Cook)</p>	<p>___ South Suburban Reading Council - (Those parts of Cook Co. bounded on west by Will-Cook Rd., north by 115th St., and/or Chicago City limits)</p> <p>___ Two Rivers Reading Council - (Kankakee, Iroquois, Northern Ford)</p> <p>___ Will County Reading Council - (Will)</p>	<p>___ Lewis and Clark Reading Council - (Macoupin, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Washington, Clinton)</p> <p>___ National Road Reading Council - (Bond, Effingham, Fayette, Marion)</p>
REGION 3	REGION 6	REGION 9
<p>___ Fox Valley Reading Council - (Kane)</p> <p>___ Prairie Area Reading Council - (Western DuPage County)</p> <p>___ West Suburban Reading Council - (DuPage County east of Route 83 and those parts of Cook County west of Austin Boulevard excluding all areas within the Chicago city limits)</p>	<p>___ Central Illinois Reading Council - (Logan, Menard, Cass, Morgan, Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery)</p> <p>___ Macon County Reading Council - (Macon)</p> <p>___ MID-State Reading Council - (McLean, DeWitt)</p>	<p>___ South Eastern Reading Council - (Lawrence, Richland, Crawford, Jasper, Edwards, Clay, Wabash, Wayne, White)</p> <p>___ Southern Illinois Reading Council - (Jefferson, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Alexander, Hardin, Pulaski, Massac, Jackson, Hamilton)</p>
	REGION 10	
		<p>___ CIRP - (College Instructors of Reading Professionals)</p> <p>___ ICARE - (Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education)</p> <p>___ SRL - (Secondary Reading League)</p>

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, A Doubletree Hotel

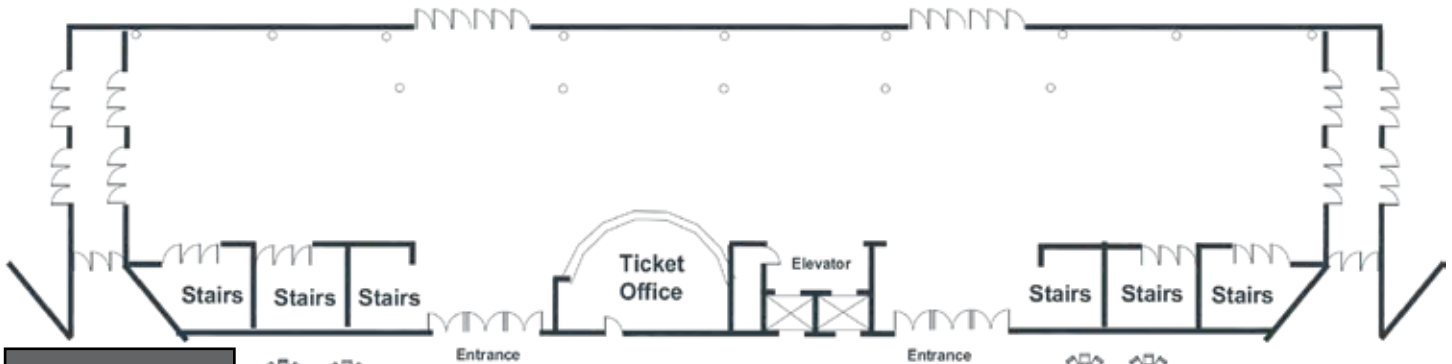


First Floor



Second Floor

Bank of Springfield Center



**New & Preservice
Teachers
Pizza Party
Friday at 3:00 pm**

**Conference
Registration**

**Complimentary
Refreshments**

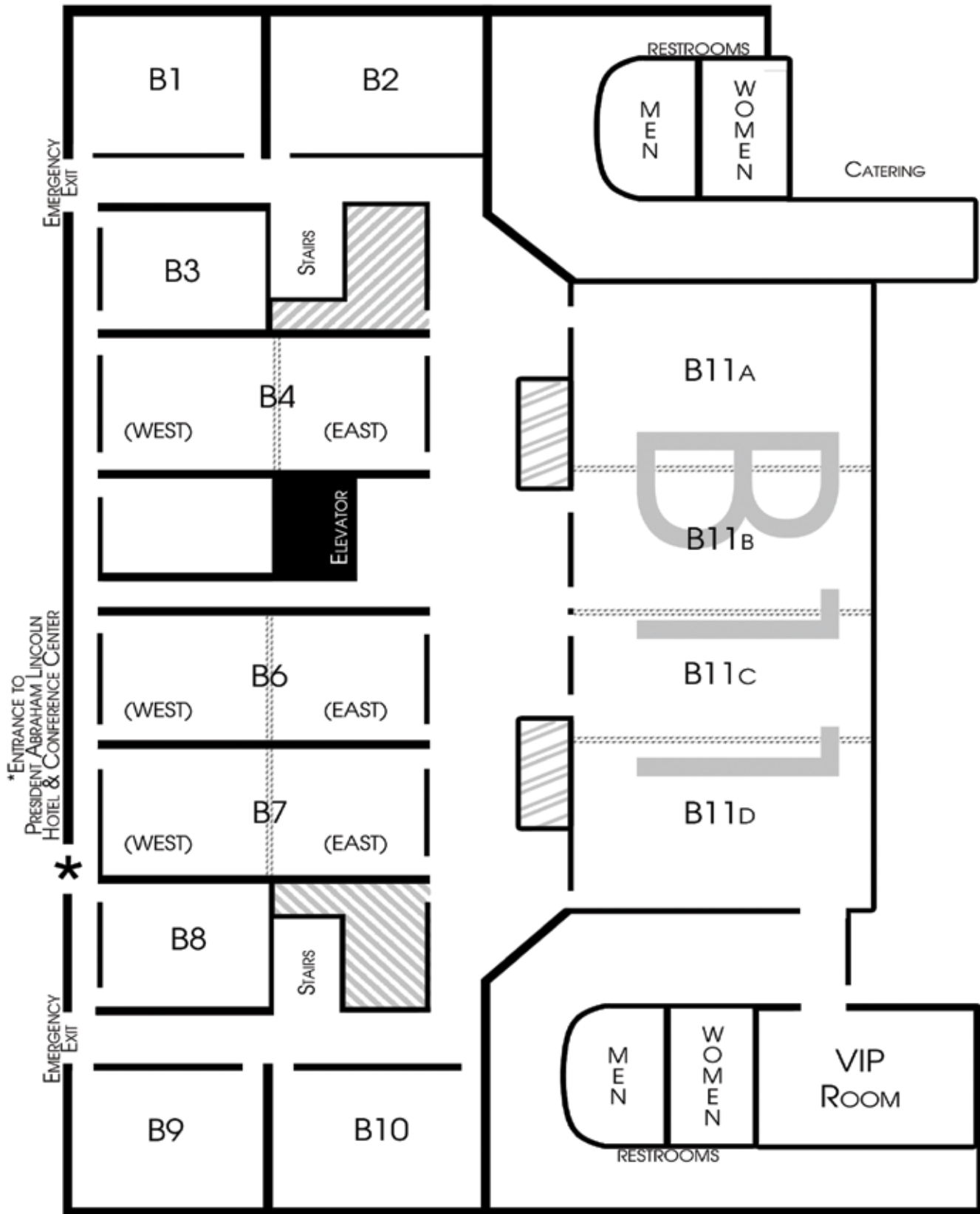
Concessions

233	300	333	400	433	500	533	600
232	301	332	401	432	501	532	601
231	302	331	402	431	502	531	602
230	303	330	403	430	503	530	603
229	304	329	404	429	504	529	604
228	305	328	405	428	505	528	605
224	309	324	409	424	509	524	609
223	310	323	410	423	510	523	610
222	311	322	411	422	511	522	611
221	312	321	412	421	512	521	612
220	313	320	413	420	513	520	613
219	314	319	414	419	514	519	614

Featured Speaker Autographing

Exhibit Hall on First Floor

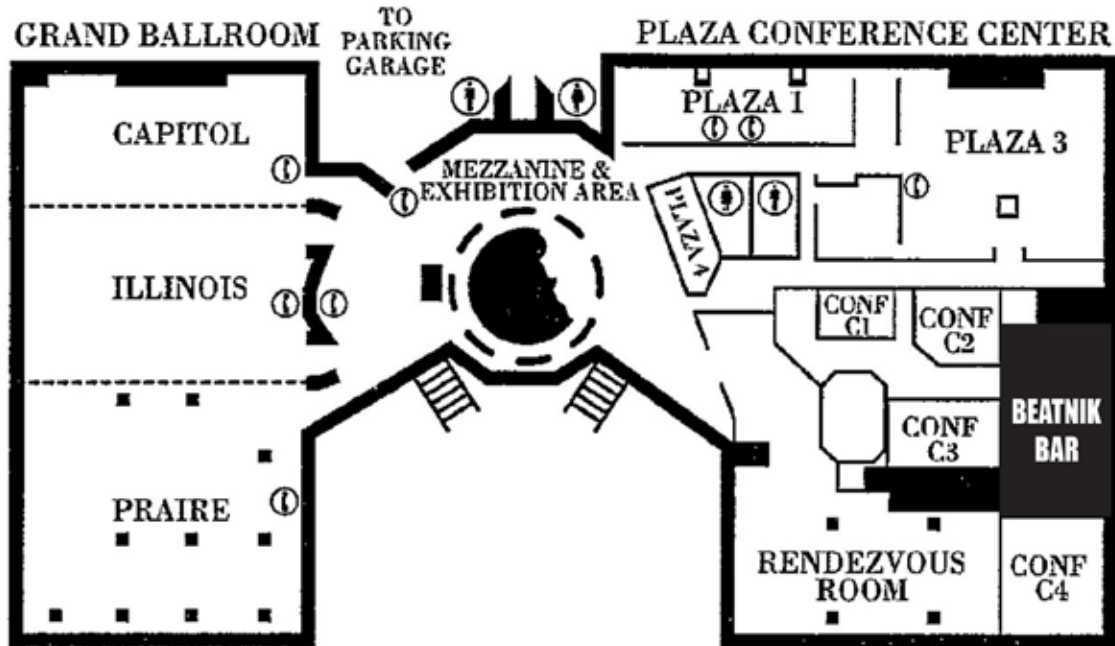
Bank of Springfield Center



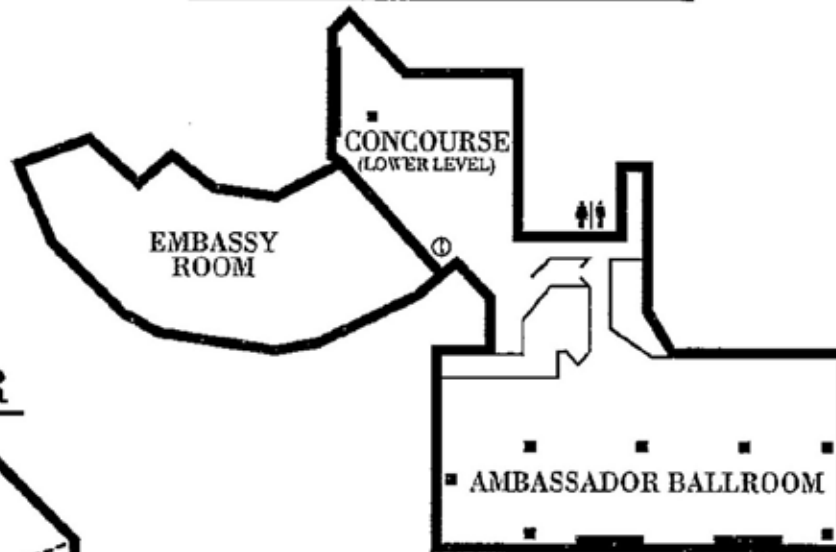
Meeting Rooms in Lower Level

Wyndham Hotel

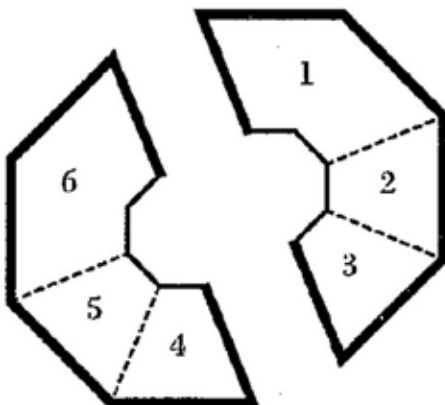
MEZZANINE LEVEL



CONCOURSE LEVEL



29TH FLOOR



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

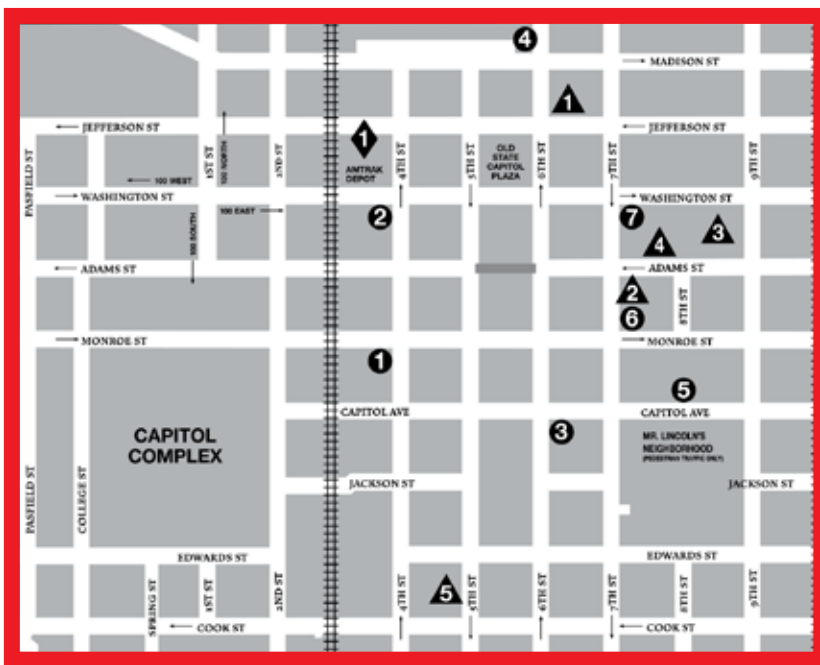
Springfield Overview

▲ HOTELS

1. Candlewood Suites
2. Carpenter Street Hotel
3. Comfort Suites
4. Drury Inn & Suites
5. Hampton Inn
6. Hilton Garden Inn
7. Microtel Inn & Suites
8. Northfield Inn & Suites
9. President Abraham Lincoln Springfield - a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
10. Ramada Ltd. North
11. Residence Inn
12. Wyndham Hotel

◆ TRANSPORTATION

1. Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport



● PUBLIC PARKING GARAGES & LOTS

1. 4th & Monroe
2. 4th & Washington
3. 6th & Capitol
4. 6th & Madison (Presidential Museum)
5. 7th & Capitol (under public library)
6. 7th & Monroe (Near Hilton Springfield Hotel)
7. 7th & Washington (Near PCCC and President Abraham Lincoln Hotel)

▲ SITES & HOTELS

1. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
2. Wyndham Hotel
3. Prairie Capital Convention Center
4. President Abraham Lincoln Springfield - a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
5. Vachel Lindsay Home

◆ TRANSPORTATION

1. Amtrak

Illinois Reading Council
1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2
Normal, IL 61761

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 800
Springfield., IL



Download
Conference App



Download
General
Conference
Information



Phone: 309-454-1341

Fax: 309-454-3512

Email: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

IRC Website: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Facebook: [@IllinoisReadingCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisReadingCouncil)

X: [@ILReadCouncil](https://twitter.com/ILReadCouncil) [#ircreads](https://twitter.com/ircreads)

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/illinoisreading/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ilreadcouncil/

Threads: www.threads.net/ilreadcouncil/

MISSION

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.

VISION

The Illinois Reading Council advocates for high-quality literacy opportunities that empower all learners. As a leading literacy organization, the IRC provides access to research, materials, and methodologies to teach literacy and promote lifelong learning. As an active well-organized system of local and special interest councils and state committees, the IRC provides a supportive network for grass-roots involvement and the exchange of information for a diverse membership.